

## Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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### Senate: **Menendez Bill**

In late September, Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) introduced S.B. 3932, *The Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2010*. The bill is not likely to come up in the lame duck session which starts Nov. 15, 2010.

**Resources:**

- Summary from the Immigration Policy Center: [www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/comprehensive-immigration-reform-act-2010-summary](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/comprehensive-immigration-reform-act-2010-summary)

Summaries from the American Immigration Lawyers Association ([www.aila.org/issues/issue.aspx?docid=18635](http://www.aila.org/issues/issue.aspx?docid=18635)):

- 3-page overview: [www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1019|6712|8846|33251](http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1019|6712|8846|33251)
- 16-page summary: [www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1019|6712|8846|33249](http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1019|6712|8846|33249)
- 73-page section by section summary: [www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1019|6712|8846|33250](http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1019|6712|8846|33250)

**Old Resources:** REPAIR framework (Sen. Schumer): [www.politico.com/static/PPM154\\_proposal.html](http://www.politico.com/static/PPM154_proposal.html)  
Summary: [www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=31857](http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=31857)

**House:** No action expected in lame duck.

**Old Resources:** Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security And Prosperity (CIR ASAP) Act of 2009 (introduced by Rep. Gutierrez in Dec. 2009), H.R. 4321, summary: [www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/CIR\\_ASAP\\_2009\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/CIR_ASAP_2009_Summary.pdf).

### Hearings: **House Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing on Immigration and Farm Labor, Sept. 24, 2010**

Webcast & witness testimony: [judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear\\_100924.html](http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear_100924.html)

An interesting hearing overall, but the highlight was certainly comedian Stephen Colbert's final remarks, where he stepped out of character and showed his Catholic roots:

*Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA): "Mr. Colbert, you could work on so many issues, why are you interested in this issue?"*

*Stephen Colbert: (Pause) "I like talking about people who don't have any power, and [it] seems like one of the least powerful people in the United States are migrant workers who come and do our work but don't have any rights as a result. And, yet, we still invite them to come here and at the same time ask them to leave. And, that's an interesting contradiction to me, and, you know, 'whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers,' and these seem like the least of our brothers right now – a lot of people are least brothers, right now, because the economy's so hard, and I don't want to take anyone's hardship away from them or diminish anything like that... but migrant workers... suffer... and have no rights."*

Clip of final remarks: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdsF4juuzQY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdsF4juuzQY)

CNN opinion piece: [www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/09/29/carey.colbert.immigration/](http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/09/29/carey.colbert.immigration/)

### **House Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing on Economic Benefits of Immigration, Sept. 30, 2010**

Webcast & witness testimony: [judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear\\_100930.html](http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear_100930.html)

Washington Post: [www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/30/AR2010093002552.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/30/AR2010093002552.html)

**Administration: Feds moving to dismiss some deportation cases**

Federal immigration judges appear to be dismissing more non-criminal deportation cases. Read more at [washingtonmemo.org/2010/08/26/feds-moving-to-dismiss-some-deportation-cases/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/08/26/feds-moving-to-dismiss-some-deportation-cases/)

**Recent articles: The truth doesn't poll well, in Mennonite Weekly Review:**

[www.mennoweekly.org/2010/9/27/truth-doesnt-poll-well/](http://www.mennoweekly.org/2010/9/27/truth-doesnt-poll-well/)

**Stand Alone Bills**

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**Status: DREAM Act fails to attach to defense bill**

Senate leadership had intended to attach the DREAM Act as an amendment on a defense authorization bill before recess, but in September, that bill failed to garner enough votes to move forward. The DREAM Act and/or AgJobs could possibly come up in the lame duck session, but it's not likely given the Senate's full schedule.

**DREAM Act:** The DREAM Act would help undocumented youth who graduate from high school obtain legal permanent residence. MCC has supported the DREAM Act in past years.

- DREAM Act fact sheet/sample letter: [washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration/resources](http://washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration/resources)
- EMU Alum Isabel Castillo: Giving the DREAM a Push: [washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/27/emu-alum-isabel-castillo-giving-the-dream-a-push/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/27/emu-alum-isabel-castillo-giving-the-dream-a-push/)

**AgJobs:** AgJobs would help undocumented farm workers and agricultural guest workers obtain temporary immigration status with the possibility of becoming permanent residents.

**U.S.-Mexico Border Enforcement**

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**Congress/Admin.: \$600 million more for border security**

Just before the August recess, Congress approved a \$600 million border security bill, which President Obama later signed into law. Read more at [washingtonmemo.org/2010/08/13/600-million-for-border-security/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/08/13/600-million-for-border-security/)

**New fact sheet: 4 Facts about Border Enforcement** [washington.mcc.org/system/files/4Facts\\_Border\\_Enforcement.pdf](http://washington.mcc.org/system/files/4Facts_Border_Enforcement.pdf)

How much is increased border security costing U.S. taxpayers? Is it making a difference? What will? This new fact sheet looks at these questions and more:

**Articles/Blogs: Litter or life-giving?**

Is leaving water bottles for migrants in the desert litter or a Christian act of mercy? According to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the answer is "ambiguous." Read more: [washingtonmemo.org/2010/10/01/litter-or-life-giving/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/10/01/litter-or-life-giving/)

**Record number of border deaths**

From the Arizona Daily Star: "The 2010 total breaks the record of 234 set in 2007. It has been a deadly decade in Arizona's desert for illegal immigrants, with the bodies of nearly 2,000 men, women and children found since 2001." Read more: [washingtonmemo.org/2010/10/08/record-number-of-border-deaths/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/10/08/record-number-of-border-deaths/)

## Grassroots Activities

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### *Interfaith Immigration Coalition:*

#### **IIC New Year's Resolution Campaign**

Join members of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition to make a New Year's Resolution to stand with immigrants, mobilize our faith communities, and call on Congress to make it their New Year's Resolution to enact immigration reform in 2011.

- Make your New Year's Resolution by signing a pledge card, and encourage others to join you!
- Engage your community by hosting pre- or post- New Year's Resolution parties for immigration reform.
- Share your New Year's Resolution by submitting a short (1-2 minute) video to our new YouTube page to inspire others in their work for more welcoming communities and immigration reform.

#### **\*\* New Year's Resolution Campaign One-Day Film-Session & Training on Video Production** (Limited travel scholarships are available)

- Monday, November 8, 2010 Tucson, AZ
- Tuesday, November 9, 2010 Chicago, IL

More information at [interfaithimmigration.org](http://interfaithimmigration.org)

### *National Faith & Immigration Calls:*

#### **Tackling the Big Questions of Immigration**

- Monday, **November 1**, 4 pm EST - Economics and employment
- Monday, **December 6**, 4 pm EST - Border security

Call-in number: 800-920-7487, Code: 76723736

### *MCC Washington Office:*

**Action Alerts** [washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/](http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/)

### *Mennonite Church USA:*

**Resources** [peace.mennolink.org/immigration.html](http://peace.mennolink.org/immigration.html)

## Legislative Updates

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To stay up-to-date on immigration reform legislation, visit our blog or sign up for action alerts via email:

MCC Washington Office Blog: [washingtonmemo.org](http://washingtonmemo.org)

Action Alerts: [washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/](http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/)

## Statements on Immigration Reform

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- MCC U.S. Immigration Policy Principles: [washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration](http://washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration)
- Mennonite Church USA Statement on Immigration: [peace.mennolink.org/resources/immigrationletter\\_eng.pdf](http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/immigrationletter_eng.pdf)
- National Association of Evangelicals: [www.nae.net/resolutions/347-immigration-2009](http://www.nae.net/resolutions/347-immigration-2009)