



August 13, 2025

The Honorable Darrell Issa
U.S. House of Representatives, 48th Congressional District

The Honorable Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives, 50th Congressional District

The Honorable Mike Levin
U.S. House of Representatives, 49th Congressional District

The Honorable Sara Jacobs
U.S. House of Representatives, 51st Congressional District

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives, 52nd Congressional District

Subject: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Dear Distinguished Representatives:

The Escondido City Council respectfully writes to request your leadership on comprehensive immigration reform legislation. As elected officials representing a community of 150,000 residents, we witness daily the practical consequences of our nation's fragmented immigration system and believe decisive congressional action is both necessary and achievable.

Escondido's demographic composition reflects broader regional trends that demand federal attention. Hispanic and Latino Americans constitute 51.7% of our population, while 27.1% of all residents are foreign-born. Our median household income of \$84,477 demonstrates the economic contributions of our diverse community, yet current immigration policies create unnecessary uncertainty that undermines continued prosperity.

Our local economy depends heavily on industries where immigrant workers play essential roles: agriculture, construction, hospitality, and services. These sectors employ thousands of residents who contribute significantly to our tax base, support local businesses, and strengthen our community fabric. However, the absence of clear federal immigration policy creates workforce instability that affects business planning, economic development, and community growth.

The current immigration system creates specific operational challenges for local government that require congressional intervention:

- **Public Safety Concerns:** Unclear immigration enforcement policies reduce community trust in local law enforcement. When residents fear reporting crimes or serving as

witnesses, public safety suffers for all community members. Police departments require clear federal guidance to effectively serve and protect all residents. Immigration enforcement agents and officers acting within Escondido should be clearly identified by badge, agency, and name.

- **Economic Uncertainty:** Businesses struggle with workforce planning when employee legal status remains uncertain. This affects hiring decisions, training investments, and long-term business development. Clear immigration pathways would enable more predictable economic growth.
- **Administrative Burden:** Local services face increased demand when federal immigration policies lack clarity. Healthcare systems, schools, and social services must address needs without adequate federal coordination or funding support.
- **Constitutional and Civil Rights:** As a city committed to upholding constitutional principles, we recognize that immigration enforcement must occur within the framework of fundamental rights and protections that apply to all persons within our jurisdiction, including due process and equal protection.

Current immigration policies impose significant economic costs through enforcement expenditures, lost tax revenue, and reduced economic productivity. Comprehensive reform offers substantial fiscal benefits:

- **Tax Revenue:** Increased tax collection from workers gaining legal status
- **Law Enforcement:** Reduced enforcement and detention costs
- **Economic Development:** Enhanced economic growth through workforce stability
- **Social Services:** Improved Social Security and Medicare solvency through expanded contributions

We respectfully urge your support for comprehensive immigration legislation that addresses these practical concerns through evidence-based solutions:

- **Earned Legalization Programs:** Establish clear criteria and timelines for individuals who have demonstrated community ties, employment history, and tax compliance to obtain legal status. This would benefit our population while strengthening our tax base and economic stability.
- **Employment-Based Immigration Reform:** Create guest worker programs that address seasonal labor needs while protecting wages and working conditions for all workers.
- **Border Security and Processing:** Support increased resources for border security infrastructure and immigration court systems to ensure orderly, efficient processing of immigration cases.
- **Local Law Enforcement Clarity:** Provide clear federal guidelines that distinguish between local public safety responsibilities and federal immigration enforcement to rebuild community trust.

Immigration reform presents opportunities for bipartisan achievement that addresses concerns across the political spectrum. Business leaders seek workforce stability. Law enforcement requires community cooperation. Taxpayers benefit from expanded economic participation. Families deserve certainty and security.

Polling consistently shows majority support for comprehensive approaches that combine border security enhancements with legal pathways for current residents. This represents a significant political opportunity for congressional leadership willing to pursue practical solutions.

Your respective districts and committees position you well to advance meaningful reform. Representative Issa's experience with oversight and government operations, Representative Peters' work on innovation and economic development, Representative Levin's environmental and labor expertise, Representative Jacobs' focus on foreign policy and security, and Representative Vargas' border and trade knowledge collectively provide the acumen necessary for comprehensive legislation.

Studies consistently demonstrate that immigration reform generates positive fiscal impacts at federal, state, and local levels. For communities like Escondido, these benefits translate directly into improved public services and infrastructure investments.

The Escondido City Council respectfully requests that you:

- **Champion comprehensive immigration reform** that addresses both border security and legal pathways for current residents
- **Support increased funding for immigration courts** and processing systems to reduce case backlogs and to establish protections for current legal pathways
- **Advocate for clear federal guidelines** that enable effective local law enforcement while maintaining community trust
- **Promote bipartisan dialogue** focused on practical solutions rather than partisan positioning
- **Visit our community** to observe firsthand the positive contributions of immigrant families and businesses

Our city demonstrates that diverse communities prosper when supported by clear, fair policies. We have successfully integrated immigrant families who now serve as business owners, teachers, healthcare workers, public safety personnel, and community leaders.

Comprehensive immigration reform represents both a moral imperative and an economic opportunity. The current system's dysfunction imposes costs on communities, businesses, and families while failing to achieve stated policy objectives. Congress has the authority and responsibility to create a system that reflects American values while meeting practical economic and security needs.



We appreciate your service to our district and your dedication to representing all constituents. The challenges we face require federal solutions that only Congress can provide. We look forward to working with you to advance immigration policies that strengthen our community and our nation.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further and provide additional information about our community's experiences and needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Honorable Dane White
Mayor of Escondido

Honorable Consuelo Martinez
City Council Member District 1

Honorable Joe Garcia
City Council Member District 2

Honorable Christian Garcia
City Council Member District 3

The City of Escondido welcomes the opportunity to host congressional visits to demonstrate successful community integration and discuss policy implementation strategies. Please contact City Clerk Zack Beck (Zack.Beck@Escondido.Gov | 760-839-4560) to arrange visits or additional briefings.