



# Comprehensive Immigration Reform Community Action Planning Session

*Marlene Rivera, OFA-Illinois CIR Lead and Chicago North CIR Lead & Bill Davis, NWSOFA Chapter Co-Lead  
@NWSOFA .... Bill's personal tweet @involvedman .. Marlene's personal tweet @0\_0Arial*

# Goals for This Session

1

Go over the fight for reform over the past few years

2

Arm ourselves with an understanding of the benefits of reform and the costs of inaction

3

Find out what you can do

# Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Recent History of the Fight for Reform
- III. Benefits of Reform/Costs of Inaction
- IV. What you can do



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# Immigration Reform Background

- Our immigration system is badly broken.
- Currently 11.5 Million undocumented immigrants living in this country – many with families and jobs.
- Our legal immigration system is outdated and inefficient -- holding our economy back and keeping citizens away from their families for too long.
- Right now, it's too easy for businesses to knowingly employ undocumented workers--exploiting the system to gain advantage over businesses that are playing by the rules.
- And we need to continue to improve our border security and infrastructure.
- All of these things can be accomplished by passing comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

# The Fight in the Senate

- Shortly after the 2012 elections, a bipartisan group of eight Senators (known as the “Gang of Eight”) began crafting a comprehensive immigration bill. They revealed their bill in April, 2013.
- The President laid out his vision for reform the included better border security, cracking down on businesses that knowingly hired undocumented immigrants, streamlining our legal immigration system, and creating a pathway to citizenship.
- Several months of hard campaigning followed across the country pressing Senators to support the bill.
- On June 27th, 2013, the US Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill with support from Senators from both parties
- S744. ... <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/special-reports/guide-s744-understanding-2013-senate-immigration-bill>

# Reform Moves to the House

- After the Bill passed the Senate, it moved to the House, where Speaker Boehner has not brought it up for a vote for over a year. .... Discharge petition: <http://thinkprogress.org/immigration/2014/04/02/3422085/190-discharge-immigration/>
- Most observers believe that if at any time over the past year, there has been bipartisan support to pass a bill, but Speaker Boehner has refused to act, held hostage by extreme members of his caucus.
- If a vote were held even today, we believe that it has the support to pass.
- And we know the majority of Americans continue to support immigration reform.
- Our NWSOFA .. Flip e-magazine <http://flip.it/s9ybS>

**Speaker Boehner has had bipartisan support to pass reform for over a year, but has refused to even allow a vote.**

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# President Obama is Taking Action

So while I will continue to push House Republicans to drop the excuses and act — and I hope their constituents will too — America cannot wait forever for them to act. And that's why, today, I'm beginning a new effort to fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own, without Congress.

*--President Barack Obama, June 30, 2013*

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# Economic Benefits of Passing Reform

- Stronger GDP growth
- Higher labor force participation
- Higher productivity and wages
- New jobs and small businesses
- Lower federal deficits
- Lower federal debt
- Stronger social security
- Increased entrepreneurship



# Reform is Good for America

“Remember that this is not just a debate about policy. It’s about people. It’s about men and women and young people who want nothing more than the chance to earn their way into the American story. And throughout our history, that’s only made our nation stronger. And it’s how we will make sure that this century is the same as the last, an American century, welcoming of everybody who aspires to do something more, who’s willing to work hard to do it, who’s willing to pledge that allegiance to our flag.”

--President Barack Obama, January 29, 2013

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# What You Can Do!

- Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors
- Write a letter to the editor
- Get the word out online in your community
- Work with partner organizations



# Talk to Your Friends, Family, and Neighbors

- There is a lot of misinformation out there around Comprehensive Immigration Reform.
- If you hear something that is false, speak up!
- Spread the word about the positive benefits of comprehensive immigration reform and the costs of inaction

CIR Rally Covered on Up W/Steve Kornacki MSNBC on June 29, 2014

[https://archive.org/details/MSNBCW\\_20140629\\_120000\\_Up\\_WSteve\\_Kornacki#start/4680/end/4740](https://archive.org/details/MSNBCW_20140629_120000_Up_WSteve_Kornacki#start/4680/end/4740)

CLTV Video: <http://video.cltv.com/?ndn.trackingGroup=91047&ndn.siteSection=wgn&ndn.videoId=26319683&freewheel=91047&siteSection=wgn&vid=26319683>

WGN Video: <http://wgntv.com/2014/06/28/immigration-reformers-lobby-rep-dan-lipinski/comment-page-1/>

WBBM: <http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2014/06/28/immigration-rights-advocates-rally-outside-rep-dan-lipinskis-office/>



# Get the Word Out in Your Community

## Write a Letter to the Editor

- Opinion sections are widely read
- Great way to bring the issue to the local community
- Letters can often be emailed or submitted online

## Use Online Tools

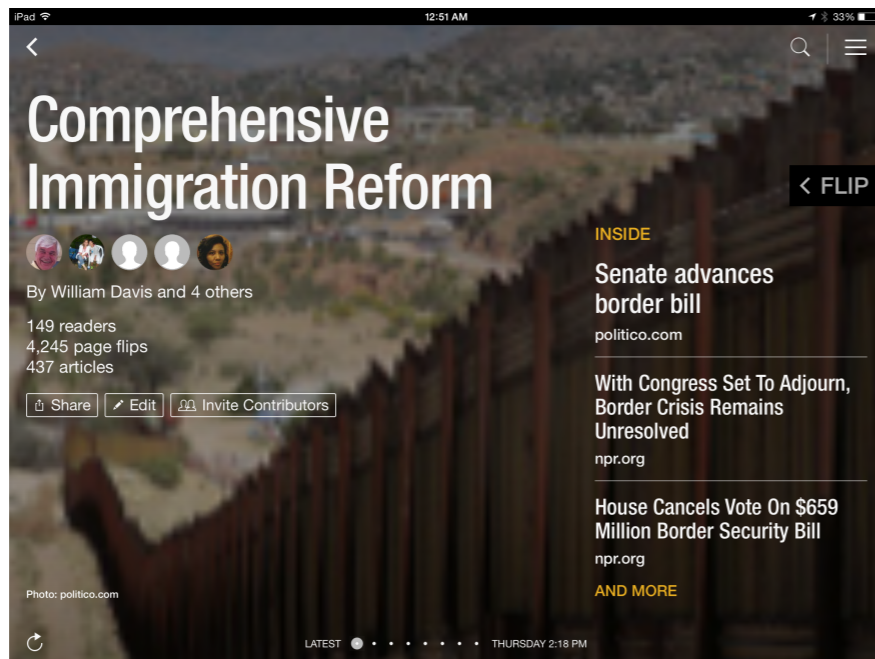
- Post on Facebook in support of comprehensive immigration reform
- Tweet in support of reform using the hashtag #CostOfInaction <https://mobile.twitter.com/NWSOFA>
- Share personal stories of immigration reform or how it effects your local economy

## Partner Organizations



# Recap

- Our Immigration system is broken, and we need comprehensive reform to fix it
- There is a cost of inaction – over \$13 Billion so far, and another \$37 Million every day
- Speaker Boehner can call a vote on CIR now—there is bipartisan support—but he refuses
- We aren't giving up – we need to keep fighting for reform





ORGANIZING FOR **ACTION**

**Questions & Answers**

**Ideas: From the Parking Lot**