



FIRM Response to Anti-Immigrant Amendments to H.R. 240, the Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

After the mid-term election, Republicans promised an end to partisan gridlock, yet in their first week of the 114th Congress they have threatened to defund the Department of Homeland Security in order to block relief for millions of immigrant families and workers. Republicans want the American public to believe their efforts to block reform are about President Obama, but they are really attacks on struggling immigrant families. The five amendments up for consideration are a collection of the harshest anti-immigrant provisions we have seen in years and are completely out of line with where Americans stand on immigration. They seek not only to block the sensible policies President Obama announced in November, but also to strip many young immigrants of the right to work and remain in the country legally.

If Republicans had their way and these amendments became law, immigration officials would have no discretion and no sensible priorities to follow. The end result would be that parents, spouses of military personnel, long-time residents of the country, crime victims, and young people who came here as children would all be top priorities for deportation because immigration officials would no longer be allowed to consider the individual circumstances of each person's case. This would be bad for immigrant families, the economy, and our nation as a whole.

Republicans keep saying they want comprehensive immigration reform, yet every time the topic is up for debate and Congress considers immigration-related legislation, they only succeed at introducing and rallying behind radical anti-immigrant measures. This is the *third* time House Republicans have tried to take DACA away from young people who have received protection. With these amendments, Republicans are showing once more they are not serious about governing and would rather focus their time breaking apart immigrant families.

America is looking to Republicans to come to the table with solutions, not create more problems by threatening to shut down the Department of Homeland Security and maintaining the *status quo* of a broken immigration system. We urge Members of Congress to stand with us and reject these latest attacks on our families.