

## **“Everybody Knows We Have the Votes” Message Guide October 24, 2013**

### Background

Today, [Pres. Obama once again called on Congress](#) to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Although Republican lawmakers are saying they are working on legislation that addresses the status of the 11 million aspiring Americans in our country, and House Republican leadership keeps saying there will be votes on immigration this year, we have yet to see any concrete proposals or progress.

**Everybody knows what we know:** *the votes are there in the House for immigration reform with a path to citizenship.* We are growing more and more frustrated by the House Republicans' *politics as usual* and their resistance to align themselves with the US Senate who has already passed bipartisan immigration reform. According to the Wall Street Journal, even [Republican donors](#) are expressing dissatisfaction with the House Leadership for their failure to introduce serious legislation.

Let's keep the pressure up. There is a window of time this year where the House could act on immigration reform. But we know they only respond to pressure. We need to keep hammering what the costs are for doing nothing—to our families, our communities, but also how House Republicans are harming their own party and brand. *Remember November 2012?*

[The Alliance for Citizenship will issue specific message guidelines early next week as we get ready to remind Congress and the country of our political power as a movement.]

**We must stand firm in calling for our bottom line: a permanent solution that puts 11 million aspiring Americans on the path to citizenship.** Rep. Darrell Issa's bill, which is [expected to be introduced](#) next week, offers a TEMPORARY six-year visa to undocumented immigrants, without any guarantees after the six years. As of right now, NOT ONE REPUBLICAN has introduced serious bipartisan legislation that offers a true permanent solution.

Pres. Obama, Sen. McCain, and others are stepping up and calling on the House Republicans to act because the simple fact is that the House needs to start voting on issues important to the American people.

### Time to call the question:

Will Speaker Boehner and the Republican leadership step up and do what's best for our country (*and* the Republican party)? Will they respond to our pressure and schedule a vote for real immigration reform that puts 11 million undocumented immigrants on the path to citizenship OR will the House Republicans continue to dig themselves into a deeper hole among voters they need in elections going forward?

## Talking Points

- **Everybody knows what we know: the votes are there in the House for immigration reform with a path to citizenship. Yet, Speaker John Boehner and the Republican leadership are digging themselves into a deeper hole by delaying and dragging their feet, doing nothing to fix our broken immigration system.**
- **Americans have had enough of the House Republicans' *politics as usual*.** Americans want to see action, they want to see their elected officials govern. They want Speaker Boehner to step up and schedule a vote on immigration reform to prove Congress can still do the job voters elected them to do.
- All we have heard so far from House Republicans is talk. **Not one Republican has introduced immigration legislation that offers a permanent solution to 11 million aspiring Americans or put pressure on Speaker Boehner to schedule a vote.**
- **Immigration reform could be the comeback issue for the GOP—if they tackle it and work with Democrats to pass a solution.** Speaker Boehner and the House leadership need to prove they're serious about reform—and that means action on real bipartisan legislation with a permanent solution for 11 million with a path to citizenship. If they do, they will prove that Washington can still do important things on a bipartisan basis, and resolve a crisis in our communities. It's a win-win for everyone, but Republicans must act.
- **House Republicans have a chance to do what's right for the American people. It's not about what President Obama "wants," it's about what the Republican Party needs.** If Republicans fail to act, they will seal their fate in the 2014 and 2016 elections and every national election after that.
- **The pro-reform movement is growing stronger every day. For us, this fight is personal.** This fight for reform is about our families, our communities, and our nation's future. We will not stop until we achieve a permanent solution that grants dignity and respect to all immigrant workers and families and that means a chance for 11 million aspiring Americans to earn citizenship in the country they call home. We will continue to ratchet up the pressure and be relentless until we make the promise of reform a reality.
- **This is the moment of truth for House Republicans.** They must realize the changing demographics and growing support for reform is real. They can either join the majority of Americans who want immigration reform—or meet us at the ballot box where we will defeat them.

## Q&A

**Q. Why is President Obama interfering in the legislative process? Are you concerned that he could hurt the chances of Republicans taking the issue up?**

A. President Obama is doing what he needs to do as a president—laying out that immigration reform is a top priority. Republicans complained he was too hands-off on immigration during Obama’s first term, now they say he’s too hands-on. This silliness is just a smokescreen to cover the Republicans’ lack of progress so far on immigration. Our advice to Republicans: ignore the President if you want to, but do what’s best for our country and your own self-interest.

**Q. What do you think about Rep. Issa’s six-year visa bill? It’s the first bill to address the 11 million, correct?**

A. We haven’t seen the bill or any language yet from Rep. Issa. We’ve seen bits and pieces but until we see the full bill we can’t comment. But one thing we are certain is we need a permanent solution to fix our country’s broken immigration system, and that includes putting all 11 million undocumented immigrants on a path to citizenship. A comprehensive bill that has bipartisan support was introduced already in the House – HR 15. It’s time for Republicans to work with Democrats on a solution.