

“Immigration Reform is Next on the Agenda” Message Guide

October 16, 2013

TOPLINE MESSAGE:

With the government shutdown finally coming to a close, Congress—and especially the House Republicans—has a lot of work to do to prove to the American people they are capable of governing. **House Republicans can begin redeeming themselves by immediately scheduling a vote for immigration reform.**

As the lone bipartisan issue with majority support in Congress—and from voters across the country—House Republicans can help repair their image by scheduling a vote for a path to citizenship. **Speaker Boehner can allow the bipartisan majority in the House to pass immigration reform since he just did it with the budget and debt ceiling bill.** Furthermore, House Republicans can keep from further alienating Latinos, immigrants, youth, and moderate and independent voters, and demonstrate that they can solve the problems critical to the future of our country.

Already [Pres. Obama](#), longtime immigration reform champion [Rep. Luis Gutierrez](#), and legislators from both [Democratic](#) and [Republican](#) parties have said: **immigration reform is next up on the agenda.** Now is the time for House Republicans to give us a vote on citizenship and fix our country’s broken immigration system once and for all.

Our movement will not rest until Congress passes a permanent solution for the 11 million aspiring citizens. Each day that Congress drags its feet, 1,100 families are torn apart by senseless deportations. **That’s why we are escalating our efforts to pass immigration reform this year.**

BACKGROUND:

After 200 rallies and events across the country last week, our movement is primed and ready to escalate.

Now that it looks like Congress has reached a deal on the budget and debt ceiling, extending the deadline until early next year, in these upcoming 10 weeks we need to pounce and define the political moment for immigration reform with a path to citizenship for all 11 million.

Our movement has built from the 183 actions and major mobilizations held on Oct 5, to the civil disobedience action in Washington DC where 200 people—including eight members of Congress—were arrested, to thousands upon thousands taking to the streets in Illinois, Nebraska, and Arkansas, to occupying offices and detention centers in Florida and Arizona.

Next week will see even further escalation of our movement in congressional offices across the country. We have made it very clear—we are not going away until we pass immigration reform with a path to citizenship for all 11 million.

We need a comprehensive fix to our broken immigration system. Our movement embraces both the Plan A & Plan B. Although we seek a permanent solution to our immigration crisis, we need to publicly call on Pres. Obama for an immediate end to deportations that rip apart our families, our communities, and our country.

UPCOMING DATES:

10/12-10/21	Non-Violent Direct Action & Civil Disobedience trainings
Week of 10/21	Escalating actions in congressional offices (Congress likely to be home after budget, debt ceiling deal) Field will begin to push targeted legislators to 1.) Co-Sponsor H.R. 15 (House bipartisan bill) and/or 2.) Publicly call on Boehner to schedule a vote for citizenship
Week of 10/28	Integrate and intensify civic engagement into field activities to demonstrate the power of the Latino, Asian, and immigrant vote
11/5	Election Day
11/11	Veterans' Day
Week of 11/11	National Week of Faithful Disobedience
Lead up to Thanksgiving	More direct actions...

TALKING POINTS:

- Congress has finally reached a budget and debt ceiling deal that extends the deadline until early next year. Now, **immigration reform becomes the best chance for Congress to redeem itself for the government shutdown and prove to the American people that it can still govern.**
- As the lone bipartisan issue with majority support in Congress—and from voters across the country— House Republicans can help repair their image by scheduling a vote for a path to citizenship.
- Speaker Boehner can allow the bipartisan majority in the House to pass immigration reform since he just did it with the budget and debt ceiling bill. Furthermore, House Republicans can keep from further alienating Latinos,

immigrants, youth, and moderate and independent voters, and demonstrate that they can solve the problems critical to the future of our country.

- Already Pres. Obama, longtime immigration reform champion Rep. Luis Gutierrez, and legislators from both Democratic and Republican parties have said immigration reform is next up on the agenda. This is the chance to make it happen.
- **We have more than the 218 votes needed to pass immigration reform with a path to citizenship in the House of Representatives.** It's up to House Speaker John Boehner, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy to bring reform to the floor and let the bipartisan majority express its will. We will not accept any process or timing excuses. We have the votes and we have the time to pass a strong immigration reform bill this year.
- [POLITICAL INSIDE BASEBALL, IF NECESSARY:] To avoid a budget crash and credit default, Speaker Boehner once again [circumvented his "Hastert excuse"](#) and allowed the [bipartisan](#) majority in the House to pass legislation. He and the GOP leadership can do the same for bipartisan immigration reform. Already, 26 House Republicans are on the record supporting immigration reform with a path to citizenship. It's time they either sign on as co-sponsors to the House bill or pressure their party leaders to come together with the Senate on a final solution.
- **The pro-reform movement is strong and getting 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 until we make the promise of reform a reality.