



FLORIDA COMPACT on IMMIGRATION



State & Local



We the signers of the **Florida Compact on Immigration**, are committed to common-sense immigration reforms to strengthen our economy and attract talent and business to our state.

We recognize the critical role immigration plays in driving economic growth. Hence, we support bipartisan immigration policies that ensure our federal system meets the needs of our labor market; finds a solution for undocumented Floridians who make vital contributions to our state's economy; secures the border; and enforces our nation's laws. Florida's immigration policies should reaffirm our global reputation as a welcoming and business-friendly state.

We urge state leaders and Florida Members of Congress to adopt these six principles of the **Florida Compact on Immigration**:

- 1. FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Immigration policy is a federal issue between the U.S. government and other countries. Florida's delegation in Congress should work to enact federal immigration policy that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe, and protects our borders.
- 2. STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY & WORKFORCE:** As the gateway to the Americas and Caribbean for commerce, culture and investment, Florida needs a robust workforce and policies that prioritize attracting and retaining international talent. Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective at meeting the demands of our economy. And it should acknowledge the critical role immigrants play in Florida's economy as workers, taxpayers, and consumers. (As of 2017, immigrants contributed \$7.8 billion in state and local taxes and held nearly \$91.9 billion in spending power.)
- 3. A COMMON-SENSE APPROACH:** Immigrants are part of our communities across Florida. A common-sense approach to this reality would reflect our values and recognizes the critical role immigration has played in our nation's history and economy. Our immigration policies should provide a sensible path forward for immigrants who are here without legal status, are of good character, pay taxes, and are committed to becoming fully participating members of our society and culture — in particular, Florida Dreamers and TPS holders.
- 4. EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT:** A sensible and honorable law enforcement strategy would focus on public safety, target serious crime, and safeguard witnesses and victims. We need a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and unintended consequences to businesses, the workforce, and consumers. A broader reform effort ultimately needs to include ways that accurately, reliably, and affordably determine who is permitted to work— and ensure an adequate workforce for a growing economy.

- 5. FAMILY:** Strong families are critical to developing successful individuals and cohesive communities. Our immigration policies should prioritize keeping close families together so as to ensure the most supportive home environments for all children.
- 6. COMPETITIVE COMMUNITIES:** Communities that grow and attract talent are the ones who are welcoming to all. Local policies should nurture an environment that helps all residents to have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Signatories

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