

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services and  
Education  
  
Democratic Senior Whip  
  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus  
Healthcare Task Force Chair



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Dear Colleague:

Why is comprehensive immigration reform critical to the fight for women's equality?

There are countless reasons. Our broken immigration system divides families and separates mothers from their children. It makes immigrant women vulnerable to violent partners and unscrupulous employers, trapping them in abusive relationships and dangerous jobs. It keeps immigrant women in the shadows, unable to make the most of their talents and skills.

Struggling against these obstacles, immigrant women still make tremendous contributions to our country. They run businesses and raise families. They care for our children and our seniors. They excel in jobs across all sectors of our economy. Unfortunately, because of their immigration status, immigrant women are frequently underpaid and exploited by their employers.

Comprehensive immigration reform will bring these women out of the shadows, and enable them to seek fair treatment and wages, helping to lift their families out of poverty. In fact, according to a recent study by the Center for American Progress, becoming a citizen increases women's incomes by an average of 17 percent, boosting their purchasing power and helping our economy.

To ensure that the voices of immigrant women are no longer overlooked and ignored, I have convened the Congressional Women's Working Group on Immigration Reform, a new partnership between women in Congress and women's advocacy organizations. I hope you will join us in fighting for responsible immigration reform that protects immigrant women and empowers them to give back even more to the country they love and call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucille Roybal-Allard".

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress