



## Immigration

### Theological/Ethical Background

“The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

### Background

Present laws contribute to uncontrolled/unlimited/unscreened immigration, separate families for decades. and make it nearly impossible to achieve legal status.

In the meantime, our economy requires many more full-time, year-round new immigrant workers each year than the law allows. (National Immigration Forum)

### Goals

- Ⓒ A safe, legal, orderly manner for workers and their families to enter US that will prevent trafficking and exploitation.
- Ⓒ Reasonable criteria to regularize status and/or a path to become permanent residents and eventually US citizens.
- Ⓒ Restoration of due process, safeguarding of asylum seekers and enforcement of humane, fair, targeted, and effective laws.
- Ⓒ Reduction of time to reunify families separated by migration, detainment and deportation following raids.
- Ⓒ Recognition of employers’ need for new labor – and rights of immigrant workers.



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Present Plans

*President's plan*

- C Prohibits immigrants bringing family to the US, denies all family applications filed after 2004 and converts all family visas to merit based visas.
- C Does not have provisions for fair wages, labor protections, safe working conditions or non-emergency social services.
- C Mandates return to home country, then payment of \$10,000 before applying for legal entry; and mandates a fee of \$3500 each time they apply for a "Z-visa".
- C Provides no path to citizenship.

*Strive Act (HR1645)*

- C Calls for labor protections, wage regulations, discrimination safeguards and a system for employers to verify employees are authorized to work.
- C Provides path to legalization for undocumented that arrive after 6/1/06, pass criminal checks, pay \$500 fine and prove employment history.
- C A "new worker" program that calls for undocumented to learn English and US history, pay back taxes and fines and maintain employment.

What Would Help

- C Reject President's Plan
- C Pass the Strive Act

(5/07)

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American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

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