

Sample Talking Points on Immigration Reform

Use these talking points when discussing immigration reform and international education with elected officials.

1. As a constituent who is interested in international education, I ask you to support comprehensive immigration reform. Without immigration reform the United States will not be able to have a robust economic recovery, prepare our college students for the job market of today and tomorrow, or engage in world affairs in ways that benefit global stability and security.
2. International education isn't just about getting to know the world and the world getting to know us – though that is a big part of it – it is also about providing the education our college students need to be prepared for the job market of tomorrow. Our future prosperity depends on the education we provide today.
3. If comprehensive immigration reform is not possible this year, we at least need to pass the DREAM Act. Thousands of children raised in the United States graduate from our high schools without any hope of attaining a higher education. This is unfair, but also an unreasonable loss of valuable talent to this country and our economy. Young people brought to the United States as children should have an opportunity to get right with the law and contribute to their communities to the best of their abilities by allowing them access to higher education.
4. While most of the immigration reform discussion focuses on illegal immigration, the legal immigration system is broken too. Immigration reform must address the challenges facing international students as well as those who contribute to our campuses as professors, researchers and scientists. Our immigration system must allow us to attract and retain talented individuals. This includes providing a more direct path to green card status for international students and scholars.
5. Immigration reform must happen at the federal level. While it is understandable that individual states want to enact their own legislation because of the lack of action by Congress, having 50 different immigration laws will only further frustrate international education and exchange. A well-functioning immigration system that furthers the goals of international education can only be achieved through federal control of immigration law.

Prepare a Story

Have stories ready to demonstrate how the broken immigration system has negatively affected international education in your community and on your campus. Stories of real people in your community will make an impact on your members of Congress. Examples could include:

- The immigration problems encountered by international professors, researchers and scholars on your campus in their attempts to obtain either nonimmigrant or immigrant status (such as delays in processing or multi-year green card backlogs).
- Stories of the challenges faced by international students to either studying in the United States or fears of inability to work or get a green card after graduation.