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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 25, 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to reiterate its support for bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

We recently sent the attached letters to the Judiciary Committee to urge that any immigration legislation taken up in the Lame Duck Session include comprehensive immigration reform that secures the borders and improves and simplifies the current legal immigration system. While immigration is a Federal responsibility, counties are directly affected by the costs associated with current immigration policies. Counties provide health, education and public safety to all residents, regardless of immigration status.

Comprehensive immigration reform should include an earned path to citizenship and continuation of protections provided under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The County opposes the forceful separation of families without due process or a plan for reunification. In addition, the County opposes any unfunded Federal mandates or any mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws. Comprehensive immigration reform must support immigrants and refugees who seek opportunity or asylum in the United States according to established legal processes and those sworn to uphold such legal processes.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests as Congress takes up immigration legislation in the remainder of this year.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg