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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
2331 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

The County requests your support for 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. Immigrants and their families, regardless of whether they are authorized or unauthorized to be in this country, contribute to the local economy.

Comprehensive immigration reform should include an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks, demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, paying back taxes and fees that may be required. It is also important to continue the protections provided under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. In addition, the County opposes any unfunded Federal mandates or any mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws. In addition, a sensible and orderly guest worker program and the possibility of green cards for science, technology, engineering and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities are sensible reforms that should be included.

The current immigration system is confusing and complicated. Communities like Santa Barbra County would benefit greatly from immigration reform that addresses these issues in a comprehensive framework.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg