

## Fair and Realistic Immigration Reform

*LIUNA was formed more than a century ago by immigrants struggling for citizenship and a better life. Those proud workers helped build America and Canada.*

- Then, as now, the half-million collective bargaining members of LIUNA—immigrant and non-immigrant, citizens and those struggling to be so—are building America and their contributions should be rewarded and respected.
- LIUNA is helping to lead the fight for comprehensive, far-reaching and fair immigration reform that strengthens our border and helps undocumented workers who are already here come forward, be identified and be eligible to earn legal status.

*As a union with a proud history of immigrant membership, we say reform must:*

- Protect all workers, whether immigrant or not, with the same strong labor laws, including prevailing wage protections, so that employers cannot use a worker's status as an excuse to drive down wages and working conditions for all workers.
- Create a fair path to earned legalization and citizenship for the millions of undocumented workers who are already here, paying taxes, and contributing to our economy, our culture and our communities.
- Protect families from being separated by our immigration laws, and decrease the backlogs of families awaiting reunification.
- Strengthen border security by allocating adequate border security resources, and by fighting for a more just global economy which doesn't create economic refugees who are forced to flee their homelands for a better life.

*LIUNA strongly opposes any legislation that resembles the abusive guest worker programs of the past.*

- We are a nation of citizens, not guest workers. Immigrants must not be handcuffed to an employer due to their legal status and they must have the right to change jobs, have wage and safety protections and the freedom to join together with co-workers to improve conditions.
- Employers must be required to prove U.S. workers are not available at prevailing wage pay rates before seeking guest workers.

*We oppose as unrealistic and immoral those who say we should round up millions of hard-working men and women—dividing families, taking mothers and fathers from their children, disrupting neighborhoods—and deport them to their former homelands.*

- LIUNA understands that history has too many shameful stories of mass deportation and this kind of proposal insults our heritage, our values and our beliefs.
- We do not believe that we are a nation which should allow millions to live here, work hard, pay taxes and contribute to our country for years and then tell those millions they are no longer wanted and must leave.
- The only realistic solution is a path to earned citizenship that allows undocumented workers to join with all workers for better lives—for their place in the American Dream, in our communities, our unions and our society.