

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802  
specter.senate.gov

April 15, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

I write to restate my commitment to work with your administration to enact a comprehensive immigration reform law that improves our economy, reunites families, and strengthens our borders.

I have long supported comprehensive immigration reform. As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, I worked closely with Senator Kennedy on, and cosponsored, the bipartisan Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. In the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, I continued to work with Senator Kennedy to construct a bi-partisan agreement, called "the Grand Bargain," to achieve this much needed reform. Our efforts resulted in the introduction of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007. Both bills fell prey to partisan politics.

We must renew our efforts. The immigration system in the U.S. is inadequate to meet the needs of our country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An insufficient number of visas are made available to meet the changing needs of the U.S. economy and labor market. Eligible family members are forced to wait for years – some for decades – to be reunited with families living in the U.S. An overburdened system unfairly delays the integration of immigrants who want to become U.S. citizens. Unscrupulous employers who exploit undocumented immigrant workers undercut the law-abiding American businesses and harm all workers. And as we all know too well, the billions of dollars spent on enforcement-only initiatives in the past have done little to stop the flow of unauthorized immigrants into our country.

Much work needs to be done. One end of the political spectrum will criticize us for creating a path to citizenship for those immigrants who entered without authorization, and those on the other end of the political spectrum will criticize us for not being sufficiently compassionate. But we have a public duty, indeed a moral imperative, to come to grips with this issue.

We are a nation that throughout its history has welcomed and been made richer by immigrants. Our country was built on the contributions of hard working and ambitious immigrants, like my father Harry, who emigrated from Russia in 1911. The path to become an American citizen is a path my father had and others today deserve as well. The time for comprehensive immigration reform is now.

I look forward to working with your administration to develop a strong, bipartisan proposal this year.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter