



The California Congressional Delegation and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

On the eve of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the comprehensive immigration reform bill, where do California's two U.S. Senators and 53 U.S. Representatives stand?

Forward Observer reviewed congressional and campaign websites, as well as media reports and other online resources, to compile this summary of most recent statements on immigration reform for each of the 55 members of the California delegation (40 Democrats and 15 Republicans).

Forward Observer found that more than half of the California delegation has stated support -- in principle -- for immigration reform that is "comprehensive." This is based on public statements as of April 16, 2013. Specifically:

- 30 Democrats and 2 Republicans have stated their support of "comprehensive" reform.
- Three out of four Democrats in the California delegation are on the record as being in favor of comprehensive reform (30 of 40 members).
- Only 5 members, all Republican, are on the record as against comprehensive immigration reform. These members have specifically raised objections to one of the four main components of reform.
- 10 Democrats and 8 Republicans have not issued clear public statements to date on the current comprehensive immigration reform effort.

Senators and Representatives who have expressed support for the "Gang of 8" compromise framework or have made other statements in support of "comprehensive" reform are categorized in this analysis as "Yes" on comprehensive reform. The elements of "comprehensive reform" are: increased border security, a path to citizenship for undocumented persons, legal immigration reform and a temporary worker program. Any Member of Congress who expressed objections to one or more of these four points is categorized as opposed to comprehensive reform.

This information will be updated in the weeks and months ahead. For updates, follow Forward Observer on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

U.S. SENATE

Member	Y/N	Recent Verbatim Statements
Sen. Dianne Feinstein [D]	Y	"After months of negotiation, I can announce that a bipartisan agreement has been reached addressing key issues of agricultural workers in the forthcoming comprehensive immigration reform bill. Senators Rubio, Bennet, Hatch and I have worked closely with farm workers and representatives from numerous agricultural sectors across the country—all have come together to endorse this agreement, which resolves outstanding issues including wage levels, agricultural guest worker visas and protections for U.S. workers." Feinstein Press Release, April 12, 2013



Sen. Barbara Boxer [D]		<p>“It’s great to see movement on comprehensive immigration reform. While the devil is in the details, I look to working with my colleagues on this legislation.” Boxer Press Release, January 28, 2013</p> <p>Sen. Boxer was one of seven Senators who wrote in a letter to the Gang of 8 that any proposals to eliminate or limit family-based admission categories would be “very troubling.” Boxer, Hirono, Brown, Harkin, Schatz, Franken, Warren Press Release, March 20, 2013</p>
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Democrats:

Member	Y/N	Recent Verbatim Statements
2nd — Rep. Jared Huffman [D]	Y	<p>“The current immigration system is broken, and it is holding us back. Congress needs to act now on a tough and smart reform that creates a new common-sense immigration process and provides a roadmap to citizenship for the 11 million aspiring citizens who have been living and working in the shadows for far too long.” Huffman Press Release, January 29, 2013</p>
3rd — Rep. John Garamendi [D]		None identified.
5th — Rep. Mike Thompson [D]	Y	<p>“Immigrants are an important part of our district’s and nation’s history, culture and economy. However, our current immigration system is broken [...] It’s time we fix our broken immigration system [...] We need to take a comprehensive approach that solves the whole problem.” Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013</p>
6th — Rep. Doris Matsui [D]	Y	<p>“There is no question that our immigration system is broken and comprehensive reform is needed. I am pleased that the President is proposing reforms that would keep families together, strengthen our ports and borders and strengthen the economy by protecting our workers.” CAPAC Press Release, January 29, 2013</p>
7th — Rep. Ami Bera [D]		None identified.
9th — Rep. Jerry McNerney [D]		<p>“We should improve enforcement and strengthen penalties for employers and contractors who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, manage seasonal labor programs for local agriculture effectively, and develop a stronger system to monitor and crack down on illegal trafficking at our borders.” McNerney for Congress website, accessed April 13, 2013</p>
11th — Rep. George Miller [D]	Y	<p>“I am encouraged to see President Obama and a bipartisan group of Senators independently announce broad plans for moving forward with comprehensive immigration reform. It is a positive sign that there is bipartisan collaboration in both houses, and an early commitment from the President in his second term. For a comprehensive proposal to be successful, it must strengthen our borders, crack down on companies that hire undocumented workers or abuse guest worker programs, provide a fair and honest path to citizenship for millions of immigrants.” Miller Press Release, January 29, 2013</p>
12th — Rep. Nancy	Y	“Today, President Obama demanded firm and swift action on immigration reform –



Pelosi [D]		and Congress must answer this clarion call with a bill that is comprehensive, that reflects our history as a nation of immigrants, and that puts the American Dream in reach for anyone who comes to our shores." Pelosi Press Release, January 29, 2013
13th — Rep. Barbara Lee [D]	Y	"As a nation of immigrants we need a comprehensive plan that promotes equity and long term growth and economic well-being. I will continue to fight for a plan that strengthens families, builds the American workforce and provides a roadmap for every American that aspires to citizenship." CAPAC Press Release, January 29, 2013
14th — Rep. Jackie Speier [D]	Y	"A comprehensive policy must create a tough but fair pathway to legal status for the millions of hardworking immigrants who are already here contributing to our communities, including foreign students who want to innovate here." CAPAC Press Release, January 29, 2013
15th — Rep. Eric Swalwell [D]	Y	"One view that is clearly bipartisan is the need for immigration reform – both Democrats and Republican Members were applauding the President's remarks about fixing our broken immigration system. Immigration reform should include allowing high-skilled foreigners educated at American universities to stay in the U.S. and contribute to our economy rather than competing against us. It also must feature a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers already living in the country." <i>San Ramon Patch</i> , February 14, 2013
16th — Rep. Jim Costa [D]	Y	The Senate is much closer to introducing a comprehensive immigration bill in the coming weeks and House members say they are not far behind. "Under the best circumstances, we could possibly be voting in June or July on a measure," said Congressman Jim Costa. Rep. Costa said both Democrats and Republicans are coming together to push for a bipartisan bill that would provide a pathway to citizenship to the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants. "The voters made clear the notion that self-deportation was not going to be a solution to this problem," said Costa. ABCNews.com, April 8, 2013
17th — Rep. Michael "Mike" Honda [D]	Y	"I applaud President Obama for his extraordinary leadership in this momentous effort to forge long overdue comprehensive immigration reform." CAPAC Press Release, January 29, 2013
18th — Rep. Anna Eshoo [D]	Y	Rep. Eshoo favors comprehensive reform legislation that will increase border security, reunite families, establish employment verification systems, and create a viable guest worker program. She also supports efforts to improve technology at immigration service centers, decrease immigration application backlogs, and expedite visa processing at U.S. consulates around the world. Congressional webpage, accessed April 11, 2013
19th — Rep. Zoe Lofgren [D]	Y	"Today I heard the President call for our country to take up the great work of comprehensive immigration reform. He voiced his full support for many of the principles I have worked to advance my entire life...I believe we have an historic opportunity to fix the nation's broken immigration system from top to bottom in a bipartisan fashion so it works for families and our economy." Congressional webpage, accessed April 11, 2013
20th — Rep. Sam Farr [D]		"During the campaign, the President made it clear that immigration reform was a priority. In today's speech he outlined a clear path forward that is tough, fair and practical. It requires responsibility from those who are here illegally and those who hire them, guaranteeing that everyone is once again playing by the same rules." "On the Central Coast, we understand the important role guest workers play in our agriculture community. Any immigration package that comes out of Washington must

		provide farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers here in California with a legal, stable workforce. As we work together in Washington to address this problem, I will make sure that this is a priority in the debate.” Farr Statement on President Obama’s Immigration Reform Proposal, January 29, 2013
24th — Rep. Lois Capps [D]	Y	“While I’m very encouraged to see a bipartisan framework emerge from the Senate that recognizes that we are a nation of laws while respecting our history as a nation of immigrants, the details of how this plan would work must be examined carefully. The framework released today contains many of the elements of a comprehensive immigration plan I have long supported, including strengthening border security, ensuring our immigration system helps our economy grow, and creating a tough but fair path to citizenship that helps keep families together.” Capps Press Release, January 28, 2103
26th — Rep. Julia Brownley [D]	Y	“Our country is a country of immigrants and there is no doubt that our immigration system is broken and needs a common sense approach to comprehensive reform. Immigration reform should reflect our values as a nation, which include consideration of the importance of families and communities, and does not unnecessarily damage our economic vitality and competitiveness. I would advocate for the creation of an earned pathway to citizenship, coupled with increased border security measures and mechanisms to both hold employers who knowingly violate the law accountable and make sure that workers and businesses pay their fair share of taxes.” Brownley for Congress website, accessed April 12, 2013
27th — Rep. Judy Chu [D]	Y	“Our immigration system is outdated and in need of reform. We have more than 12 million immigrants currently living in the United States without legal status, millions of more close family members waiting abroad to join their loved ones through the family-based immigration system, and the ongoing detention and deportation of our community members. Businesses and farmers aren’t getting access to the workers they need to stay competitive, which hurts our economy.” “During the 111th Congress, I was an original cosponsor of the CIR [Comprehensive Immigration Reform] ASAP Act (H.R. 4321) to completely and permanently reform our immigration system so it works.” Congressional website, accessed April 15, 2013
28th — Rep. Adam Schiff [D]	Y	Today, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), following news that eight bipartisan Senators had come to an agreement on immigration reform and that President Obama in a major address called on Congress to pass legislation this year, reiterated his support for the passage of comprehensive immigration reform. “I applaud Senate leaders for laying out a bipartisan plan and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to get this important work done. The President is also taking an economically-smart approach to immigration, which includes ideas similar to the “Invest in America Act,” and which will allow Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics foreign graduate students to stay in the U.S. upon graduating from U.S. universities and provide startup visas for job-creating entrepreneurs.” <i>Pasadena Now</i> , January 30, 2013
29th — Rep. Tony Cárdenas [D]	Y	“The reality is that we need to make sure we have comprehensive immigration reform. We have 11 million people who are here undocumented. The vast majority of them are contributing positively to our society and to our economy.” MSNBC, “Martin Bashir Show” Interview, February 20, 2013
30th — Rep. Brad Sherman [D]		None identified.

32nd — Rep. Grace Napolitano [D]	Y	"We are looking forward to passing comprehensive immigration reform, which includes an earned path to citizenship that brings millions out of the shadows of society, grows our economy, and keeps our families together." Napolitano Press Release, February 13, 2013
33rd — Rep. Henry Waxman [D]	Y	He supports comprehensive immigration reforms that deter illegal immigration and penalize employers who exploit or promote the use of illegal workers, while creating a concrete path for immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for a number of years to obtain legal status. He supports efforts to improve and expand our system of legal immigration and address the visa backlog. Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013
34th — Rep. Xavier Becerra [D]	Y	Our current immigration system is broken, and has been for some time. It keeps families of legal immigrants and U.S. citizens separated for decades. It allows for the exploitation of undocumented workers. It discourages legal immigration and does not meet the needs of our economy. And it keeps millions of hardworking, law abiding families who have lived in our communities for decades hiding in the shadows ... Rep. Becerra believes the only solution is comprehensive immigration reform that is tough, smart and fair. Congressional website, accessed April 15, 2013
35th — Rep. Gloria Negrete McLeod [D]	Y	"The Senate's bipartisan set of principles is a positive step toward achieving needed immigration reform ... President Obama expressed that comprehensive immigration reform, including an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, be a top legislative priority. While the details of this legislation still need to be worked out, it is encouraging that both Democrats and Republicans can finally come together and work towards fixing a broken immigration system. I look forward to hearing what the President has to say." Negrete Press Release, January 28, 2013
36th — Rep. Raul Ruiz [D]	Y	"I am encouraged by the principles in the Bipartisan Framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform released in the Senate today and look forward to hearing the President's proposal tomorrow. Now is the time to act on a comprehensive immigration reform plan that reflects our values as a nation. For far too long, Congress has failed to address our broken immigration system. I believe the Senate's proposal today is a step in the right direction toward meaningful and long lasting immigration reform, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate to reach a comprehensive immigration plan that benefits all Americans and helps strengthen our economy." Ruiz Press Release, January 28, 2103
37th — Rep. Karen Bass [D]		"Congress and the Administration must continue working together on a comprehensive immigration reform package, particularly a plan that keeps families together. This new rule is another step in the right direction but more must be done as the debate continues around immigration reform." Rep. Karen Bass Op-ed, NBC Latino, March 12, 2013
38th — Rep. Linda Sánchez [D]		"The time to act on comprehensive immigration reform is now," said Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif. "I remain hopeful that my colleagues in Congress can do the right thing and work together to produce legislation that secures our borders, reunites broken families and humanely treats the more than 11 million individuals who want nothing more than (to) achieve the American dream." <i>Deseret News</i> , January 25, 2013 "As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I am working hard to develop legislation that will truly reform this country's broken immigration system and give deserving people a chance to become equal members of society. In the meantime, I support targeted legislation like the DREAM Act, which would help hard-working children of

		undocumented immigrants attend college and earn legal status. Additionally, I applaud President Obama for using prosecutorial discretion to allow "DREAMers" to remain in the country they call home." Congressional website, Accessed April 12, 2013
40th — Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard [D]	Y	"I am encouraged by the President's words and am glad that his vision includes the principles outlined by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, including an earned pathway to citizenship. As the co-author of the DREAM Act, I am hopeful that this will give some of our most talented young people the opportunity to become citizens and continue to contribute to our society." CAPAC Press Release, January 29, 2013
41st — Rep. Mark Takano [D]	Y	"By continuing to come together, we can fix our immigration system and provide a fair path towards legal status, and create a legal immigration system that preserves the American dream for any who seeks it." CAPAC Press Release, January 29, 2013
43rd — Rep. Maxine Waters [D]		"The current immigration system is broken and must be fixed with a comprehensive plan that balances border security and strong enforcement with a workable path to legalization for those already here. We must recognize the contributions of immigrants and treat them compassionately and fairly. While we should not welcome or extend citizenship to immigrants who commit violent acts, I oppose policies that would result in the deportation of hundreds of thousands of hard-working individuals who enrich our neighborhoods, strengthen small businesses and contribute to our economy. Moreover, with generations of immigrants now living within the United States, it would be cruel to destroy homes and separate families" Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013
44th — Rep. Janice Hahn [D]	Y	"With the plans announced this week by the President and in the Senate, I am hopeful for the first time in years, that we are finally going to step past our broken and backwards immigration system and secure the reforms we have needed for so long. I agree with President Obama that now is the time. We must do right for those young DREAMers who are American in every way that matters but on paper. But more than that, we must find a meaningful, compassionate and comprehensive solution that gives the 11 million immigrants, who have been forced to live in the shadows, a path to becoming citizens of this great country. I am excited to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this done." Hahn Press Release, January 29, 2103
46th — Rep. Loretta Sanchez [D]	Y	"It's high time that we create a fair path to legal status for the millions of undocumented immigrants in our country. Ultimately, the United States does better when we allow people to come here to work legally and to seek a better life." CAPAC Press Release, January 29, 2013 "Today, key Democrat and Republican Senators are putting politics aside and are seeking to move our country forward on a viable comprehensive immigration reform plan. I'm hopeful that as the legislation is crafted, House Republicans will join their Senate counterparts and come to the table," said Sanchez. "Now is the time to act on these necessary and important reforms to our immigration system. It's high time that we create a fair path to legal status for the millions of undocumented immigrants in our country. Ultimately, the United States does better when we allow people to come here to work legally and to seek a better life." Sanchez Press Release, January 29, 2013
47th — Rep. Alan Lowenthal [D]	Y	"I was also pleased that the President focused on the need for comprehensive immigration reform – a better-built system that personifies the opportunities and

		promises of the American Dream for all new Americans. This is a pivotal moment in our nation's history, and I am ready to work with both parties to get our country moving down the path to real economic security and global competitiveness." Lowenthal Press Release, February 13, 2013
51st — Rep. Juan Vargas [D]	Y	The congressman, Rep. Juan Vargas, called the plan offered by four Republican and four Democratic senators an effective first step. The proposal calls for allowing most unauthorized immigrants to be allowed to apply for citizenship and not have to return first to their country of origin. "One of the things I like very much is that it is comprehensive and looks at everyone here and the reality that we live in," said Vargas, D-San Diego. <i>U-T San Diego</i> , January 28, 2013
52nd — Rep. Scott Peters [D]	Y	"Families and businesses throughout San Diego have waited for years for real changes to our broken immigration system, and the Senate agreement announced today is a sign of true progress. I applaud my Senate colleagues for coming together with a bipartisan agreement on immigration reform and look forward to the President's remarks tomorrow." Peters Press Release, January 28, 2013
53rd — Rep. Susan Davis [D]		"Susan would like to see a combined approach to controlling illegal immigration, one that includes securing the border, enforcing the law in the workplace, creating legal channels for workers to enter the country, and a way to earn legal status." Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013

Republicans:

Member	Y/N	Statement
1st — Rep. Doug LaMalfa [R]	N	"Amnesty is not an acceptable option;" and " current policy does not work" LaMalfa for Congress, accessed April 12, 2013
4th — Rep. Tom McClintock [R]	N	"Well, we did (immigration reform) in 1986[.] We legalized all illegal immigrants in the country with the promise that the borders would be secure. The borders were never secured. Until that promise is fulfilled, I think that the amnesty plan is a non-starter." KCRA, January 30, 2013
8th — Rep. Paul Cook [R]		Cook is a "key target on both sides of the immigration debate because [he has not] announced whether he will support a future bill that includes a path to citizenship." <i>The Press-Enterprise Blog</i> , April 3, 2013 As a candidate: "Ours is a nation of laws. I am opposed to illegal immigration. The federal government has failed in its duty to secure our borders. I'll do what's necessary to make our borders secure." Cook for Congress, accessed April 13, 2013
10th — Rep. Jeff Denham [R]	Y	Denham said he hopes for reform that includes a "guest worker" program for farmers and "earned legal status" for people who qualify to stay in the United States. "We've got an opportunity to fix a multigenerational problem," he said. "It's been about three decades of challenges that have gotten more and more complex." <i>Modesto Bee</i> , April 2, 2013
21st — Rep. David Valadao [R]		"It is time Congress comes together to find common sense solutions. For example, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 435, the Military Enlistment Opportunity Act. If passed, this legislation will allow those who have resided continuously in the U.S. for at least two



		years, and those classified as Deferred Action Child Arrivals, to enlist, broadening the pool of those eligible to list in the U.S. Armed Forces beyond citizens and lawful permanent residents." Valadao Press Release, March 7, 2013
22nd — Rep. Devin Nunes [R]		"It's not very often that the stars line up for us to be able to do immigration reform," said Congressman Devin Nunes. Nunes said immigration is a complex issue and doubts a single bill can successfully reform the nation's broken immigration system. "It could mean we move maybe some pieces of legislation. The Senate claims they're going to have a comprehensive fix all-inclusive. I've never seen the Congress truly do something all-inclusive to solve all the problems but obviously we're still hopeful." ABCNews.com, April 8, 2013
23rd — Rep. Kevin McCarthy [R]		"I wouldn't underestimate the House's ability to pass the immigration bill," McCarthy said on CNN's "State of the Union." "I think we have plenty of ideas on that, and I think there's an opportunity that we can move the ball as well." McCarthy didn't go into any details, and he didn't clarify whether GOP support would extend to legislation that includes a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants -- a core provision demanded by Democrats but still rejected by many Republicans. Still, it is significant that McCarthy says there is enough support for a major immigration bill. In his position as the House Majority Whip, McCarthy is responsible for rounding up enough votes in his Conference to pass bills. HuffingtonPost.com, March 10, 2013
25th — Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon [R]		"First and foremost, I do not support amnesty for those that entered the country illegally. I strongly believe that individuals who came here illegally should be punished to the fullest extent of the law, not rewarded for their actions. However, I understand that our immigration system needs reform. I believe that we need to reform the path to citizenship to make it more enticing to come to America legally. We should be doing our best to retain immigrants who come to America for a superior education and then decide not to stay. We need to examine the "anchor baby" policy and must fully comprehend the message we are sending to individuals considering entering the country illegally." Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013
31st — Rep. Gary Miller [R]		Miller said he wants to obtain more information before making a decision on what type of immigration-reform legislation he will support. The <i>Press Enterprise</i> Blog, April 5, 2013
39th — Rep. Edward "Ed" Royce [R]		"As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, I believe that when it comes to immigration policy, national security should be our main priority. This is why I am focused on a sound border enforcement plan." Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013
42nd — Rep. Ken Calvert [R]	N	"The U.S. immigration system is broken. There are an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants currently residing in the U.S. It is vital that Congress take action to secure our borders and stop illegal immigration. The status quo is unacceptable and I share many of your frustrations with this issue ... First, I am wholeheartedly against amnesty. I believe it is inherently unfair to give legal status to those whose first actions were to break our laws." Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013
45th — Rep. John Campbell III [R]	N	"I strongly and firmly oppose amnesty. People who came to this country illegally must not be rewarded for their illegal behavior with a blanket policy of amnesty. This is neither fair nor just." Campbell, Immigration Reform Center-112 th Congress
48th — Rep. Dana	N	"Rep. Rohrabacher vigorously opposes any attempt to legalize the status of millions

Rohrabacher [R]		<p>of illegals and continues to support common sense immigration policies that serve the American people first. This year, Rep. Rohrabacher has co-sponsored bills to end birthright citizenship, declare English as the official language, strengthen the E-verify program requiring employers to check the work eligibility of all applicants, and introduced H.R. 1822, the No Health Care Subsidies for Illegal Immigrants Act. Rohrabacher's bill would prevent illegal aliens from receiving health insurance subsidies under the new health care law by requiring proof of citizenship for eligibility.” Congressional website, accessed April 12, 2013</p> <p>“You make sure that people who are here illegally do not get jobs, and they don't get benefits and they will go home. It's called attrition. I don't happen to believe in deportation. If you make sure they don't get jobs and they don't get benefits, I mean Mitt [Romney] called it self-deportation, but it's not; it's just attrition. They'll go home on their own.” Politico, April 12, 2013</p>
49th — Rep. Darrell Issa [R]	Y	<p>The House Oversight Committee chairman told reporters Wednesday he can support a pathway to citizenship for some of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. and that he actually prefers it to a plan that would create a second-class of citizens through alternative programs.</p> <p>"I support the framework that the bipartisan group of senators are working on," Issa said. "We have to remember the 11 million people who are here are people." U.S. News.com, February 6, 2013</p>
50th — Rep. Duncan Hunter [R]		<p>“Regardless of how the immigration debate might develop, it's absolutely necessary that border security and enforcement be the first order of business. It's the right position on an issue that really matters to millions of Americans, Hispanic or not.” SDUT op-ed, December 1, 2013</p>