

# REFORMING AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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SENATOR MCCAIN LED MANY HISTORIC, BIPARTISAN EFFORTS IN CONGRESS TO SECURE THE BORDER AND IMPROVE OUR IMMIGRATION SYSTEM.

## McCain-Kennedy Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005

In 2005, Senators McCain and Ted Kennedy worked together to introduce [bipartisan immigration reform](#), legislation that would have strengthened border security, provided a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who had been working in the United States, reduced the backlog of petitions to unify immigrant families, and revised the temporary worker program. In addition, the bill would have established an electronic Employment Eligibility Confirmation System to allow employers to verify an employee's work status. The bill passed the Senate in 2006, but failed in the House of Representatives.

## Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007

In 2007, Senator McCain introduced [immigration reform legislation](#) that included provisions enhancing border security, such as fencing, radar, surveillance and increased manpower along the southern border. The legislation also included measures to reform the temporary guest worker program and provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The bill required the federal government to achieve certain benchmarks on border security before these additional immigration provisions could move forward. The bill failed to advance in the Senate.

## "Gang of Eight" Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013

Senator McCain revived the effort to reform our immigration system in 2013, working with a bipartisan group of senators known as the ["Gang of Eight."](#) They introduced a bill that included strong border security and enforcement measures, reformed the guest worker program and expanded the H1B visa program. It also included measures expanding the employment verification system, extending citizenship to undocumented minors who have been brought

into the United States illegally as children, and providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants working in the United States. The bill ultimately passed in the Senate, but was never brought up for a vote in the House of Representatives.