

EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION table.

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Ethics and Religious
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Southern Baptist
Convention

Faith and Community
Empowerment

National Association of
Evangelicals

National Hispanic
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The Wesleyan Church

World Relief

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January 14, 2019

Dear President Trump and Members of Congress,

As a new Congress is seated – led by one party in the House of Representatives and another in the U.S. Senate – and as parts of our federal government have now been shut down for several weeks over disagreements over funding for border security, we are writing to urge you to work together to resolve these differences. In doing so, we believe you have the opportunity to address multiple problems that have long plagued our U.S. immigration system.

As evangelical Christians, our concerns are fueled by our commitment to the Bible. The Scriptures both instruct a respect for the rule of law – which is diminished when immigration laws are violated without consequence – and mandate our concern for the wellbeing of vulnerable immigrants and their families, many of whom are longstanding members of local churches throughout the United States.

Over the past several years, more than 8,000 evangelical pastors and leaders have affirmed an Evangelical Statement of Principles for Immigration Reform, which states:

Our national immigration laws have created a moral, economic and political crisis in America. Initiatives to remedy this crisis have led to polarization and name calling in which opponents have misrepresented each other's positions as open borders and amnesty versus deportations of millions. This false choice has led to an unacceptable political stalemate at the federal level at a tragic human cost. We urge our nation's leaders to work together with the American people to pass immigration reform that embodies these key principles and that will make our nation proud.

As evangelical Christian leaders, we call for a bipartisan solution on immigration that:

- *Respects the God-given dignity of every person*
- *Protects the unity of the immediate family*
- *Respects the rule of law*
- *Guarantees secure national borders*
- *Ensures fairness to taxpayers*
- *Establishes a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents*

At this critical time, we encourage you to work together on a bipartisan basis in ways consistent with these six principles to ensure that our borders are secure and to establish a process by which those who are unlawfully present in the country are able to rectify their status and eventually become Lawful Permanent Residents by meeting certain established criteria.

Such a compromise would require both sides to accept provisions that may not be universally popular with their most fervent supporters, but it would resolve a longstanding problem and should also allow our federal government to re-open.

Respectfully,

Leith Anderson, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Scott Arbeiter, President, World Relief

Shirley V. Hoogstra, President, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

Hyepin Im, President & CEO, Faith and Community Empowerment

Jo Anne Lyon, Ambassador, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Russell Moore, President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Edgar Sandoval, President, World Vision U.S.