



FAITH & FREEDOM COALITION

June 19, 2018

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.8 million members and supporters of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, I urge you to vote YES on H.R. 4760, the *Securing America's Future Act* and the "Compromise Bill" being drafted by House Leadership. The separation of families illegally crossing the border is heartbreaking and tragic, part the larger tragedy of a broken immigration system that does not reflect our values or our faith. We urge Congress to act now to end the separation of children from parents at the border, reunite families legally entering the country, and secure the border.

The Bible instructs God's people to show compassion and love for the foreigner and the immigrant. Scripture combines this obligation to care for the alien with a corollary responsibility of the immigrant to obey the law and respect the customs of the nation in which he resides. How these principles apply to immigration reform is a matter of prudential judgment in enacting sound public policy. Faith & Freedom Coalition believes there are four principles that should guide immigration reform. Reform should:

1. Strengthen, not undermine, the nuclear family;
2. Promote respect for the rule of law;
3. Meet the needs of the U.S. economy; and,
4. Secure the border and strictly enforce the law.

Both bills, while not perfect, advance all these principles.

Specifically, both bills strengthen the nuclear family in three significant ways. First, both bills will end the practice of separating minor children from their parents who have illegally entered the country. Second, they both provide legal status to individuals who were brought to this country as minors illegally by their parents if they pass a strict criminal, financial and legal background check. Third, they reform extended-family chain migration to place a greater emphasis on the nuclear family, limiting family-based immigrant visas to spouses and unmarried children under 18 years old. The current visa backlog leaves children and spouses of legal residents languishing in lines years long. This is wrong and immoral.

Both bills also strengthen border and entry security in critical ways that are long overdue. The bills include funds for the completion of a fence and other border security measures along the U.S.-Mexico border that have already been authorized by Congress to interdict illegal traffic on the Southern Border. Human traffickers and other criminal elements routinely prey on the hopes and fears of desperate families and use their children to enter the country illegally as a standard operating procedure. The Acts

make this kind of exploitation more difficult and less lucrative which will protect children from exploitation by coyotes and traffickers while enforcing US laws against illegal entry. Finally, the bills strengthen the E-verify program so that employers confirm they are hiring legal employees.

Both the *Securing America's Future Act* and the Compromise Bill are common-sense and compassionate approaches to shielding children illegally brought to our country through no fault of their own while taking meaningful steps to ensure nobody finds themselves in the same situation in the future. It prioritizes and supports the intact nuclear family. It effectively secures our borders to help prevent future illegal immigration and stop drug and human trafficking. It also provides a path forward for modernizing our broken immigration system so it can be more merit-based and reflective of the changing economic and labor needs of our nation. **For all these reasons, Faith & Freedom Coalition urges a YES vote on both the *Securing America's Future Act* and the Compromise Bill.**

Thank you for considering the views of our millions of members and supporters.

Sincerely,



Ralph Reed
Chairman
Faith & Freedom Coalition

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Head
Executive Director
Faith & Freedom Coalition