



# COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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**Statement: Celebrating the President's Action to Bring Our Immigration System Closer to America's Highest Ideals of Opportunity, Family, and Freedom**

Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs

November 21, 2014

The Coalition on Human Needs celebrates President Obama's action to stop splitting apart families by deporting immigrant parents. The refusal of Congress to act to fix our broken immigration system is an affront to the most deeply held American ideals. The President has used his executive authority to fix some of the most egregious wrongs, by relieving hard-working parents of the fear that they could be wrested from their children at any time. He has also protected more of the "Dreamers" – people who came to the U.S. as children, raised and educated here, who are our neighbors, contributing to our communities. Americans' most basic sense of fairness cries out that they deserve to continue their lives here, freed from fear.

The American ideal requires that those who work hard and make a life in this country have the opportunity for full participation. We fall painfully short of our ideals when individuals cannot seek the protection of our laws from fear of deportation. When workers are paid less than they have earned or face hazardous conditions and cannot seek redress, or when parents fear each morning that they may not be able to return to their children at the end of the day, we are all diminished. In providing long-awaited relief from fear, the President is making us a better nation, truer to our values.

The President's action cannot do all that is needed. Congress must act to provide a path to citizenship, and to provide immigrants with a way towards full participation in the responsibilities and benefits that are part of our nation. But the President has used his authority to right serious wrongs, for which we are grateful. We hold Congress accountable, to enact comprehensive immigration reform, and to reject reckless calls to hold government services hostage in an attempt to undo the President's legitimate, welcome, and much-needed act.

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*The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition's members include service providers and faith groups, civil rights, religious, labor and professional organizations and those concerned with the well-being of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities. For more information please visit [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org).*