

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Positions on Proposed Immigration Policies in 2010

Since its inception in 1895, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance has defended immigrant rights and opposed unjust, racially-based or racially-implicit laws and rulings against citizens and immigrants of Chinese descent. A major goal remains humane policies that will unite and preserve, not divide, families across the generations.

Homeland security has been forcibly linked with those who violate our borders. Effective and efficient enforcement, prosecution, and incarceration must accompany this increased vigilance, with severe penalties for traffickers who exploit illegal immigrants for profit.

In the interests of a humane and rational immigration policy, The Chinese American Citizens Alliance supports concepts in HR 264, Save America Comprehensive Immigration, and in HR 938, Keeping Families Together, HR 1215, Immigration Oversight and Fairness, and also parts of 2007 **STRIVE Act**, the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act. We understand that the STRIVE Act embodies many of the portions of the McCain-Kennedy Immigration Bill, "Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act" and the Senate Judiciary Committee's proposals, which the Alliance advocated. Now the package is reshaped as the Schumer-Graham bill. The Alliance specifically recommends that you join us in supporting:

Continuation of ALL preferences for family immigration, First through Third, including Fourth and Fifth Preferences. The Alliance favors increasing current quotas on each, as much as 100% or double, as minimums in these preferences to alleviate current huge backlogs, in anticipation of future placements of even larger numbers into the permanent residency queue as we begin to resolve the illegal immigrant questions of status. More is needed than the STRIVE provision to lift a world cap on preferences.

Significant increase in the staffing and resources of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Bureau, in Homeland Security, not just to meet border patrol requirements, but also to meet the processing needs to accelerate backlogs.

Opposition to removal of U.S. Citizenship from those young persons born in the United States or otherwise legally entitled to that citizenship. It is not humane to penalize children born here because one or both of their parents are in illegal status. Illegal minors should have a clear path to legalization and higher education, **as proposed in the DREAM Acts, SB 724 and HR 1751. We urge your support.**

Resolution of conditions, under the Patriot Act and even new proposals in STRIVE, which lead to de facto indefinite detention of alleged illegal immigrants and refugees without timely due process.

Support of the STRIVE Act path to legalization of illegal immigrants, but not at the expense of loyal legal immigrants in the queue. This is the practical solution, as America has no machinery to deport an estimated 12 million illegals anyway.

Increasing annual employment and skilled worker visas (H1-B) sufficiently to sustain practical growth of our economy and curtail outsourcing. Similarly, the Alliance supports a temporary worker program of sufficient size and does favor application of it beyond the agricultural sector into urban services and labor.

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance:

Opposes criminalization of illegal immigrants, and insists on a fair system based on realistic and humane treatment. The Alliance has always advocated the principle of family unity and will continue its Mission of compassion on behalf of immigrants. This Nation has grown strong as a nation of immigrants.

Opposes criminalizing illegal immigrants here for at least five years, are employed, have no other criminal record, and have learned English. Criminalization is divisive and would open economic, political, and social gaps.

Opposes criminalizing those who assist illegal immigrants for the sake of basic human need, in emergencies, or for the necessary education of the young. Opposes criminalizing employers who are first offenders. Opposes worksite raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.#

(05/10)