

March 22nd 2013

Senator Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

Thank you for your leadership on so many issues important to the people of Maine. Time and again you have put your commitment to passing policies that will improve the lives of Mainers ahead of partisan politics. When the national debate on a comprehensive immigration reform develops in the months ahead, we hope you will do the same by supporting a **Comprehensive Immigration Reform** that creates a *roadmap to citizenship for 11 million immigrants who aspire to become citizens*.

Our immigration system is broken. *Americans, and Mainers*, need a common sense reform that fixes our broken immigration policies once and for all. *Americans, and Mainers*, need a system that serves our interests and reflects our values. *Americans, and Mainers*, want a system where employers and workers all pay their fair share of taxes; and a system that keeps families together. Every day in America — and right here in Maine — families are being torn apart, parents and children are living in fear and this should stop. Moreover, we — *Mainers* — *believe that immigration reform legislation must include key changes to the U.S asylum system to better ensure that asylum seekers who seek the protection of the United States are offered meaningful access to a fair, effective and timely asylum adjudication process*.

As organizations working in Maine communities, we see the impacts of this broken system every day. To adequately address the challenges our current system creates for immigrants and native-borne Mainers alike, we believe any reform legislation must:

- a) Secure broadest possible legalization with a path to citizenship**
- b) Preserve and work to advance family reunification**
- c) Protect rights and working conditions for all workers**
- d) Ensure enforcement measures to protect American and immigrant workers, advance due process and fair treatment that are consistent with American values**
- e) Accord the responsibilities and rights required for full integration into American society**

We look forward to your leadership on this issue and will be in touch in the weeks ahead to provide opportunities to hear directly from Mainers about why this issue matters for our state.

Signed,

ACLU OF MAINE

BURUNDI COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

CENTRO LATINO

CFL (Community Financial Literacy)

COCOMAINE (Congolese Community
Association)

H.O.P.E FOR THE GREAT LAKES

MAINE AFL CIO

MAINE PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

MAINE PEOPLE'S RESOURCE
CENTER

MAINE SMALL BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION

RWANDESE COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

SCDA (Somali Community
Development Association)

SR. PATRICIA - HISPANIC MINISTRY