



A PATH TOWARD ONE NATION

*A white paper by Anita Malik,
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Immigrants are at the center of America's global position, their contributions have made our country the most prosperous, educated, diverse and technologically advanced country in the history of the world.

Arizona has the 11th largest immigrant population in our Union, with more than 940,000 foreign-born residents, making up 14 percent of Arizonans.

Immigrants in Arizona are entrepreneurs, educators, doctors, farm laborers, students — and taxpayers.

There are many misconceptions about immigrants. **Here is the truth:**

- Immigrants don't take jobs from Americans; in fact, they contribute to economic growth.¹
- Immigrants start businesses at twice the rate of native-born Americans.²
- Immigrants do not increase the budget deficit or overall government debt levels.³

When it comes to immigration policy, **I reject the notion that we must choose between strong borders and treating humans with dignity and fairness.**

We can do both and we must.

¹ <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2017/08/24/do-immigrants-steal-jobs-from-american-workers>

² https://www.kauffman.org/~media/kauffman_org/research%20reports%20and%20covers/2015/05/kauffman_index_startup_activity_national_trends_2015.pdf

³ <https://www.cato.org/publications/working-paper/fiscal-impact-immigration>

Current Immigration Environment

Our broken immigration system is unsustainable for Arizona's 6th District because:

- Tourism, which employs tens of thousands of Arizonans in our congressional district, is suffering under strict new policies causing billions of dollars in losses.⁴
- Construction businesses report labor shortages due to restrictive immigration policies, which further increase already expensive home prices.^{5 6 7}
- Millions of low skilled immigrants work hard every day doing difficult, backbreaking jobs that many Americans won't do despite raising demand and wages for these jobs.⁸

A Vision for Common-Sense Immigration Solutions and Reforms

To revive the well-being of our nation and our families, we must transition to a modern immigration system that:

- Permits highly educated immigrant students to remain in the U.S. after graduation.
- Expands the number of H-1B visas and simplifies the process for workers and companies while closing employer loopholes around prevailing wages.
- Ends the green card backlog that keeps too many immigrant families in limbo and protects right-to-work visas for spouses.
- Encourages high-skilled immigrants to live and work in underserved communities, like doctors in rural areas and Native American reservations.

We can improve our national well-being, keep families together, ensure our citizens' safety and revive our collective prosperity.

⁴ <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/travel/tourism-u-s-down-trump-took-office-costing-4-6-n840326>

⁵ <https://www.buildingsolutions.com/industry-insights/how-will-trump-affect-the-construction-industry>

⁶ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/money/business/jobs/2017/08/29/arizona-shortage-of-construction-workers-contractors-paying-higher-wages/609418001/>

⁷ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/money/real-estate/catherine-reagor/2018/09/04/new-home-buyers-pay-arizonas-construction-worker-shortage-unemployment-builders/1192500002/>

⁸ <http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-fi-farms-immigration/>

As your representative I will fight to keep families together by:

- Ending the separation of migrant and refugee children from their parents.
- Passing the bipartisan DREAM Act while providing a path to citizenship for DREAMers and qualifying immediate family members.
- Ending the green card backlog that has put many immigrant families in decades of limbo.
- Maintaining traditional levels of refugee admissions.
- Funding bipartisan programs to help victims of persecution and violence in dangerous countries.
- Encouraging international efforts that work toward preventing religious and ethnic persecution and conflict.

Modernizing Border Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

We must secure our borders and our ports of entry by investing in effective security measures. A wall along our border is an insufficient solution to border security that does not address the underlying foundations of the migration crisis from Central America.

Our government relies on a system of checks and balances and ICE should not be an exception. Immigration enforcement cannot be centralized into a single agency. Power must be checked to ensure accountability and transparency.

I believe we must shift our energy toward adequately addressing this issue. **Let's protect our borders and law enforcement and uphold our national values by:**

- Ensuring that ICE upholds our nation's ideals and treats every human being with dignity and respect.
- Expanding remote video surveillance, aerial monitoring and a network of ground sensors.
- Strengthening the Integrated Fixed Towers program to cover the entire border.
- Increasing border patrol personnel along the border.
- Improving bilateral relations with Central American states to improve their internal stability.