

## **A State-Based Solution to Immigration Reform**

- Providing a legal workforce for employers is paramount to expanding economic growth
- Industries from agriculture to construction have been experiencing a drastic shortage of workers.
- Eliminating immigrant labor would reduce the U.S. dairy herd by 2.1 million cows, milk production by 48.4 billion pounds and the number of farms by 7,011. Retail milk prices would increase 90% and the U. S. economy would lost \$32.1 billion and 208,208 jobs. (The Economic Impacts of Immigrant Labor on U.S. Dairy Farms, Flynn Adcock, David Anderson, and Parr Rosson, research support provided by Dan Hanselka, prepared under contract for NMPF)
- While nearly everyone agrees that providing more assets to secure the border is necessary, Congress also needs to deal with the shortage of workers.

A **State-Based Solution to Immigration Reform** allows Congress to sanction State's to make their own decisions and if they choose, permit a guest worker visa program run by individual state government's and based on the economic necessities of each individual state.

### **Fundamental values of immigration reform**

- All people who enter, live, and work in the U.S. should do so in compliance with **OUR** laws
- America's immigration laws and enforcement should incentivize voluntary compliance
- Enforcement should direct all immigrants away from illicit paths and into viable legal alternatives

### **Fundamental facts of immigration reform**

- America's domestic labor force is aging and is now growing at its slowest rate in its history
- The federal government has failed to guarantee an authorized labor force for each state
- Since 1950, illegal entries were at their lowest when the U.S. had a robust work visa program
- The current visa programs are cumbersome, obsolete and do not fit the needs of a growing economy
- Failure to secure the border and permit workers to enter legally produced a large illegal population

### **Fundamental steps of immigration reform**

- Step 1: Secure the Border: ending illegal immigration requires securing America's borders
- Step 2: Reform Legal Immigration: ending illegal immigration will be impossible without allowing more legal immigration
- Step 3: Address those currently in the U.S. illegally

### **Fundamental reasons for state-based immigration reform**

- Each state has unique labor market needs that immigration programs have failed to predict
- The federal government has been slow to react to each state's rapidly changing economies
- State and local control and experimentation have contributed to America's economic vitality

### **Fundamental operations of state-based immigration reform**

- States would have the choice to sponsor foreign-born workers based on their own selection criteria

- Each state would receive a portion of new federal temporary work visas valid for work in their state
- The federal government would play the critical role of conducting background checks, interviews, and issuing the visas
- Foreign-born workers will only be able to renew their visas if they comply with all rules