



# Arizona Employers For Immigration Reform

## **Press Release - For Immediate Release**

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### **AZEIR Statement on President Obama's Immigration Order**

President Obama's immigration order is a reaction to a Congress that has for years refused to act in a proactive and positive manner on the DREAM Act or on sensible immigration reform. Today's order does not attempt to address the full immigration problem, but it is a step, albeit temporary one, in the right direction.

Since taking office, the Obama administration has focused its immigration efforts almost exclusively on border security. It has provided increased levels of staff, technology and investments to the point that arrests and deportations are at historically high levels. The Pew Hispanic Center recently reported that net unauthorized migration into the U.S. is now near zero. These are exactly the types of efforts and results anti-immigration groups have been clamoring for, for years.

With an arguably more secure border, a next step must be dealing with those who are already here. Today's policy change will give the country an opportunity to see if the benefits of the DREAM Act and status legalization can come true. We've tried the enforcement only approach for years and we know it doesn't work and it's about time we tried a more sensible approach. Do we wish this could have been done through Congress? Of course, but it wasn't. They chose not to act and we're pleased the President has.

No one should be surprised by claims that election year politics are behind the President's announcement. Whether that is true or not, bringing young, entrepreneurial students who know no other country than this and who all studies show are likely to be productive and contributing members of our society is a welcome change to the rhetoric of divisive and damaging state-level immigration laws. While it is by no means a permanent fix, at least it's a start, which is more than anything we've seen from Congress.

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