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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3905

June 29, 2009

Mr. Joe Scaglierini  
37 Harrison Ave  
Newport, RI 02840

Dear Mr. Scaglierini:

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts about immigration reform. I appreciate hearing from you and agree that comprehensive immigration reform should be a priority for the 111th Congress.

First, we have to agree on a practical method of coping with those who are illegally in America. The right answer is not to incarcerate and deport tens of millions of people. As a former federal prosecutor, I know from experience that this plan would be costly and impossible to implement, requiring an expansion of our federal prison and justice systems by as much as 60 times. Rather, I believe in requiring illegal immigrants to regularize their status by paying fines and back taxes, holding down a job, passing a criminal background check, and learning English and civics. We can no longer allow millions to live in the shadows of our society.

There are many other aspects of immigration policy that we must address, from workplace enforcement and border security to the issues you mention. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration and my colleagues in the Senate to reform America's immigration system.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I hope you will continue to keep me advised of your thoughts on any issues of concern to you.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator