

Current System	Problems	Solutions?
<p><u>Family unification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spouse, child, parent, or sibling of US citizen Spouse, minor or single adult child of lawful permanent resident U.S. relative must take financial responsibility for immigrant <p><u>Employer sponsorship of workers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May apply for temporary or permanent status Must prove that no U.S. worker can fill position Strong preference for skilled workers <p><u>Refugee or asylum seeker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must prove past persecution or reasonable fear of persecution if they return to home country Economic, environmental refugees not recognized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quotas (for other than “immediate relatives” of U.S. citizens) leave 4 million people in backlog, some for more than 20 years American citizens and legal residents separated from family members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase quotas Modernize and simplify immigration process Expand “immediate family” classification
<p>LEGAL IMMIGRATION</p> <p><u>Refugee or asylum seeker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must prove past persecution or reasonable fear of persecution if they return to home country Economic, environmental refugees not recognized <p>Persons may cross U.S. border illegally, or overstay their visa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal immigration is a civil, not criminal, offense Driven by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push factors: poverty, oppression, violence, insecurity Pull factors: employment, opportunity, safety, family unity Employers’ demand for workers Limited opportunity to gain legal status 	<p><u>Community Concerns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear of crime and terrorism Displacement of US workers Use of tax-funded social services <p><u>Undocumented Immigrants’ Concerns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable to exploitation at work Lack non-emergency medical care Children ineligible for financial aid for college Can’t get driver’s license or ID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase quotas More support for asylum seekers Have alternatives to detention Address root causes of migration More enforcement (<i>see below</i>) Dispel misinformation with facts about undocumented workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most are law-abiding Take “undesirable” jobs Contribute to economy, pay taxes Ineligible for most public assistance Provide a path to legal status Expand opportunities to work legally “Dream Act” would allow qualified students to apply for financial aid Allow driver ID’s for noncitizens
<p>UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border security: Preventing unauthorized border crossings Criminal justice system: Arresting, detaining, and deporting undocumented persons Employer sanctions: Penalizing employers for knowingly hiring undocumented workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People die attempting to cross border Costly and ineffective Detention is costly, separates families, and conditions may be harsh and abusive Communities less safe because immigrants are reluctant to deal with local law enforcement Impractical to deport all undocumented Difficult for employers to verify workers’ status Errors in records of immigration status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More barriers, surveillance technology, and personnel at border Require or allow local law enforcement to demand documentation when someone is arrested that they suspect of being present illegally Require workers to have special ID’s that cannot be falsified
<p>ENFORCEMENT</p>		

Sources: Immigration Policy Center <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org> ; National Foundation for American Policy <http://www.nfap.com/> ; Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service <http://www.lirs.org>