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October 30, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

I write to raise opposition to both current developments and future actions you appear poised to take with respect to enforcement of immigration laws.

You have made clear that you plan to move forward after the upcoming elections with unilateral executive action to provide relief to those that are in the U.S. illegally. The *Wall Street Journal* reported this week that provisions you are considering could shield as many as four million illegal immigrants from deportation. I oppose such executive action. Clearly, the issue of immigration is the purview of the United States Congress. Beyond that, persisting with such executive action will make more difficult the already challenging task of Congress agreeing to critical reforms to our broken immigration system.

Unfortunately, we already see evidence of your administration backtracking from steps that have led to one of the few instances of actual improvements in border security. It is my understanding that the U.S. attorney's office in Arizona has stopped prosecuting those apprehended crossing the border illegally for the first time in the Yuma Sector unless they have a criminal history beyond their first-time illegal crossing or are otherwise a threat to public safety. As you are aware, with the recent surge in unaccompanied minors and persistent increases in apprehensions over the last four fiscal years, the border is not secure. It is difficult to arrive at a credible rationale for reducing prosecutions in one of the few border sectors that can be viewed as under control. I strongly urge you reverse course on changes to Operation Streamline in the Yuma Sector.

Mr. President, our borders are not secure, U.S. businesses relying on foreign labor continue to struggle to fill positions across the spectrum of skill levels, our legal immigration channels remain plagued with backlogs, employers continue to lack tools to ensure their workforce is legal, and millions remain in the shadows. In recent legislation approved by the Senate, a hard fought compromise was reached coupling steps to address those here illegally with stringent border security requirements and other solutions. Unilateral executive action will ensure that border security issues are left unaddressed and no ground will be gained on fixes critical to the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator