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Immigration Talking Points

- **America's restaurants support immigration reform.** The National Restaurant Association has long advocated for a sensible immigration policy and is actively promoting and supporting comprehensive immigration reform that will bring certainty to America's workers and employers.
- **It's time to act.** Congress must pass sensible, meaningful immigration reform in 2013. The Senate's bipartisan "Gang of Eight" has put well-vetted, achievable immigration proposals on the table. A bi-partisan group in the House is also making progress. Lawmakers should act on these proposals now, for immediate humanitarian and economic reasons and to serve as a springboard for further action.
- **Legalization must be an integral part of any legislative package.** The United States' enforcement-only approach has persisted too long. The current system often targets otherwise law-abiding members of society who contribute to the U.S. economy and local communities.
- **We need a reliable employment verification system.** An, uncomplicated and reliable system would help employers manage the hiring process in a timely, efficient and respectful manner, and give employers certainty about their legal obligations. Congress should override the patchwork of state and local immigration regulations that subject employers to unfair liability and an untenable regulatory structure.
 - The National Restaurant Association supports the Legal Workforce Act, an E-Verify bill championed by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) in the last Congress.
- **The United States must be more welcoming.** Everyone agrees that the United States must do more to prevent illegal border crossings. At the same time, we need to encourage legitimate travel and tourism. Immigration reform represents an opportunity to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness.
 - The NRA supports the Jobs Originated through Launching Travel (JOLT) Act - bipartisan legislation that will improve U.S. visa policies, increase international tourism to the United States, and boost U.S. jobs.
 - The NRA supports the inclusion of a guest-worker program that is robust and workable for all skill levels.
- **Protect the Well-Being of Children.** The NRA supports the 2012 decision to protect young immigrants who came to the U.S. as children. This initiative respects hard working immigrants and provides restaurants with a way to hire and create expanded economic opportunity.
- **No industry reflects the diversity of this nation the way the restaurant industry does** - at all levels, from owners to chefs to managers to employees. Immigration reform must happen for our economy to thrive, and meaningful reform should be passed this year.