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U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin on the Need to Pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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I have long believed that our immigration system is broken and that the way to fix it is for Congress to work together to enact comprehensive reform.

When I was first elected to the Senate, I voted for comprehensive immigration reform legislation that passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support, but our action was obstructed by the Republican-controlled House. Since that time, and after four years of destructive actions from the Trump Administration, the need to fix our broken immigration system has only grown stronger and I hear the voices of those calling for action.

Today, we are at a critical juncture and I believe we must seize the opportunity to get comprehensive immigration reform done, using whatever legislative path we can, including the budget reconciliation process.

I am again an original cosponsor of comprehensive legislation introduced by Senator Menendez—the U.S. Citizenship Act – that prioritizes keeping families together and provides hardworking Wisconsinites, including Dreamers, farmworkers and the essential workers who add value to our communities, an opportunity to earn citizenship. Our legislation addresses the root causes of migration from Central America, and will help us responsibly manage and secure the border with smart investments. With this bold legislation, we will modernize our immigration system with comprehensive reforms that can help keep Wisconsin families together, support businesses, and strengthen our economy.

I have also cosponsored Senator Padilla’s Citizenship for Essential Workers Act, which would provide a fair, secure, and accessible pathway to U.S. citizenship for over 5 million immigrant essential workers in health care, agriculture, construction, food, energy, emergency response, care-giving, and other essential critical infrastructure sectors.

Immigration is a vital part of our American story, and immigrants deserve respect and the opportunity to help build a stronger future for themselves, our state, and our country.