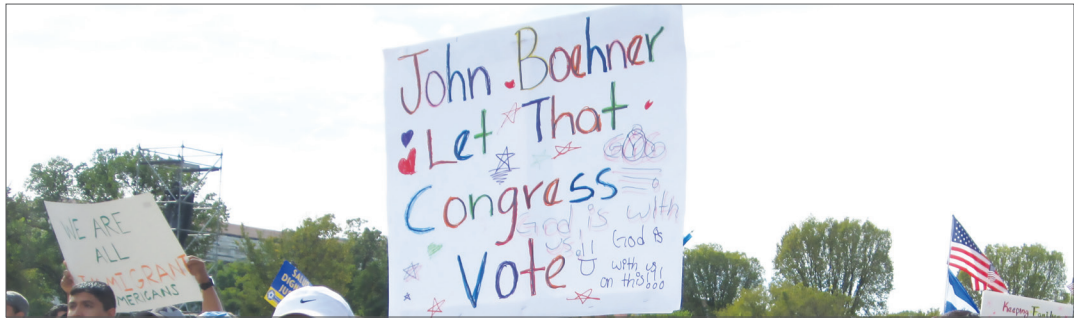


HOUSE REPUBLICANS LEADERSHIP THEIR INACTION DEMANDS EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION



On June 27, 2013, after months of hearings, hundreds of amendments, 37 hours of committee debate, and nine days on the floor, Republicans and Democrats in the Senate, in a rare show of bipartisan cooperation, passed comprehensive immigration reform legislation. “Finally,” the majority of Americans thought, “Congress is working together to fix a problem facing our country.” But the legislation then headed to the House of Representatives and was blocked by House leadership, who had no plan of their own to offer.

Instead of debating on an issue of great importance, the Republican-led House pandered to the extreme wing of their party and refused not only to

consider the Senate immigration bill, but to advance their own reform legislation. The leadership used false and partisan arguments about a lack of enforcement, despite the fact that more than two million people have been deported since President Obama took office and more money is being spent on immigration enforcement than on all federal law enforcement agencies combined (to the tune of **\$18 billion** in 2012). The Republican-led House had the best chance in decades to fix the broken immigration system, but they left town refusing to act on immigration reform legislation strongly supported by the American people.

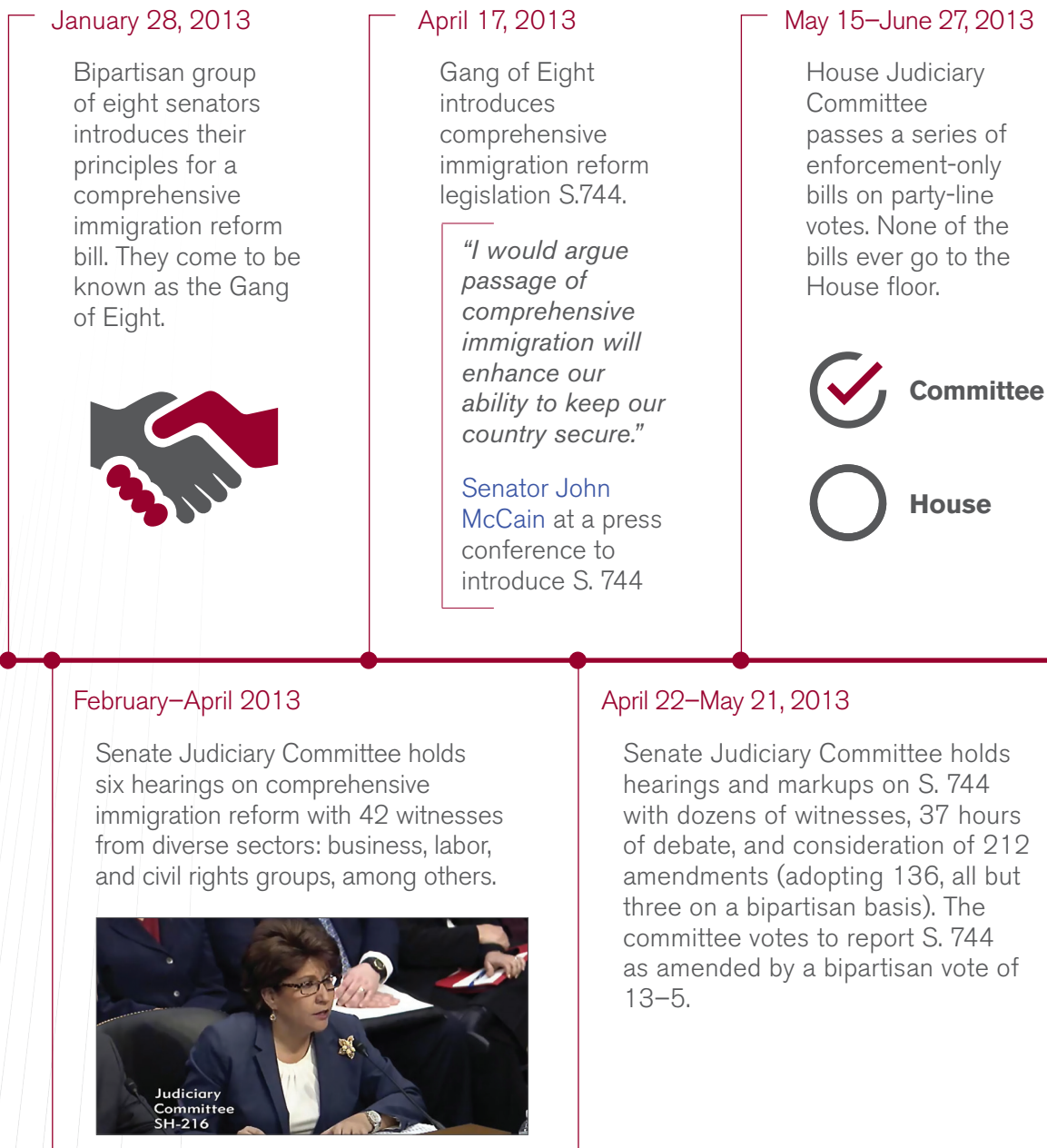
The Economic Costs of Inaction

As immigration reform continues to be thwarted, the country is losing out on billions of dollars in taxes that could be paid by immigrants who regularize their status. The [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) found that immigration reform would bring significant positive impacts to the U.S. economy by growing the labor force, jumpstarting new residential housing construction, and reducing deficits in the long-term. The economic opportunities that were lost as a result of inaction include:

- 14,000 jobs, the average number that would be created per congressional district, according to [analysis](#) by the center-right American Action Network
- \$200 billion in federal deficit reduction over the next 10 years, according to the [Congressional Budget Office](#)
- \$300 billion in added revenue to the Social Security Administration, according to the [National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare](#)
- \$700 billion in increased GDP over the next 10 years, according to the [Congressional Budget Office](#)

The economic gains to be made from executive action are not as robust as passing legislation, but they are significant. According to a study by the Center for American Progress, by granting deferred action status with work permits, the administration would create significant new revenue for the country. Allowing undocumented immigrants to apply for deferred action and work permits would allow them to access jobs that match their talents which, in turn, would

A Timeline of Squandered Opportunities to Fix the Immigration System



increase their earnings. Deferred action with work permits for undocumented immigrants who have been in the United States for five years or more would increase payroll tax revenues by \$6.08 billion in one year alone. Despite repeated statements by House Republican leadership that their agenda focused on growing the economy and creating jobs, they blocked legislation that would do both.

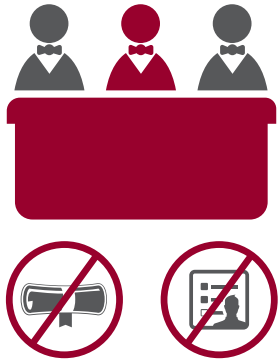
June 27, 2013

After two weeks of debate, the Senate passes comprehensive immigration reform legislation by a vote of 68–32.



October 2–November 21, 2013

H.R. 15 is referred to various committees, none of which consider the bill or issue a report.



August 1, 2014

After turmoil and a clear capitulation to the demands of extremists in their party, the House of Representatives pass two bills that speed up deportation of children at the border and prohibit the renewal and expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). House members quickly leave town.

October 2, 2013

Representative Joe Garcia (D–FL) introduces H.R. 15, a companion bill to S. 744, with 199 cosponsors.



May 30, 2014

192 House members sign the petition asking for an up-and-down vote, but House leadership refuses. Leadership indicates that they will not allow a vote for the remainder of the year.



“The 113th Congress this week took another step toward ignominy as one of the least productive, most divided in history. Vocal Republicans were empowered, virtually dictating terms of two House border security bills even after party leaders had spent much of the year trying to marginalize them. The results were bills with no chance of becoming law, and ones diametrically opposed to the direction party elders had advised Republicans to go after their losses in 2012.”

New York Times, August 1, 2014

Since the midterm election, Republicans in Congress have stated that President Obama should not use his authority to address the dysfunction of our immigration system; instead they charge that he will “poison the well” if he acts. They insist that the president acting on immigration will prevent them from

passing legislation, but Speaker Boehner and incoming majority leader Mitch McConnell offer no signs that they will make any effort to pass legislation. It is as if they want the public to forget that, for the past two years, House Republican leadership has blocked any progress on immigration legislation. Meanwhile, there is no indication that House leadership will stand up to the extremists in their party who have obstructed progress on this issue. As some journalists have pointed out, House Republicans are asking the public to suspend disbelief. Peter Beinart wrote in *The Atlantic*, “That’s why Boehner’s effort to hold congressional immigration reform hostage if Obama acts unilaterally is so absurd. Boehner killed the hostage long ago. Now he’s hoping that if he pretends it’s still alive, no one will notice the corpse lying on the floor.” Rhetoric and excuses from Republicans in Congress continue to ring hollow.

