



# PROMOTING FAIR LAWS FOR IMMIGRANTS

## VALUE

We all make mistakes. But most Americans believe that people deserve a second chance, and that most mistakes shouldn't be allowed to ruin our lives, and the lives of everyone around us.

## PROBLEM

But our criminal justice system does ruin the lives of many immigrants who come into contact with it. Even if you've lived here for years, you can be deported if you've been accused of a low-level offense like shoplifting. Many immigrants in the system don't get access to lawyers, and thousands are detained for indefinite amounts of time with no hearing. There's no question that we all should be held accountable for our actions, but removal from the country or indefinite detention is a clear example of the punishment simply not fitting the crime.

## SOLUTION

We need to re-examine how our justice system treats everyone here, and align that with the values we hold dear. We need a fair system that makes sure we don't punish people without a hearing or access to lawyers. Those rights are central to our values.

## ACTION

Urge Congress to change the definitions of "conviction" and "aggravated felony" in the immigration law to be consistent with current federal and state criminal laws; remove prostitution-related barriers to entry; de-criminalize the immigration system by repealing the 1996 laws; and restore discretion and due process for all individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice and immigration systems.