

I can say without a doubt that our nation's immigration system is broken. And in order to properly fix our flawed system, we must agree to tackle this issue in its entirety while accounting for the vital role immigrants play in our nation's economy. We need a comprehensive solution that addresses all the areas of concern. Our immigration system must secure our borders, work for employers and employees, and observe the laws of our land.

Concurrently, we must deal in a sensible and reasonable manner with approximately twelve million undocumented immigrants already residing in the US. This requires a realistic plan to deal with this community that puts undocumented immigrants on a path towards citizenship, but only after assessing fines and penalties and implementing strict guidelines that must be met and upheld over a significant period of time. This is particularly critical in light of the vital role this community plays in our nation's economy.

We need a comprehensive immigration solution, for in the absence of one, we're doomed to repeat the mistakes of our current system. We must capitalize on this historic opportunity to arrive at such a solution, and I hope my colleagues will join me in addressing this issue with the hard work and dedication that it requires.