This document contains a bipartisan sampling of recent reports and papers that congressional staff and other interested parties may find helpful as Congress considers immigration reform issues. To the extent possible, the sources were selected in the context of current research from a California perspective. The list is divided into five sub-sections – the economy, taxes, and general reform; employment, H1-B workers, agriculture, and wages; previous efforts, background checks and E-Verify; public opinion; and population studies – and organized chronologically by date of publication.

This document does not contain an exhaustive list of research materials. The Institute will continue to monitor ongoing immigration reform research and update this resource, as appropriate. Individuals are welcome to contact the California Institute with any follow-up inquiries or requests for additional information.

**THE ECONOMY, TAXES, & GENERAL REFORM**

**Center for Immigration Studies: Immigration and the American Worker**

This report examines the economic and labor impact that legal and illegal immigration have on the U.S. economy and job market. Findings include: (1) the presence of legal and illegal immigrant workers in the labor market increase the U.S. economy (GDP) by 11% ($1.6 trillion) each year, with illegal immigrants increasing GDP by $395 billion to $472 billion; (2) of the $1.6 trillion increase in GDP, 97.8% goes to the immigrants themselves in the form of wages and benefits; and (3) illegal immigration reduces the wages of native workers by an estimated $99 billion to $118 billion a year, but it generates a gain for businesses and other users of immigrants of $107 billion to $128 billion.


**American Action Forum: Immigration Reform, Economic Growth, and the Fiscal Challenge**

This report examines the impact immigration reform would have on economic growth in the United States. Findings include: (1) immigration reform can raise population and labor force growth, thus increasing Gross Domestic Product; (2) immigrants generally display entrepreneurial rates above those of the native-born population, which results in increased investments in capital and consumer goods, thus raising the standard of living for all Americans; and (3) specifically, immigration reform would raise the pace of economic growth by nearly a percentage point over the near-term, raise GDP per capita
by over $1,500, and reduce the cumulative federal deficit by over $2.5 trillion.


**The Heritage Foundation: Encouraging Lawful Immigration and Discouraging Unlawful Immigration**

This report analyzes ways in which to encourage lawful immigration, and prevent unlawful immigration through small, step-by-step action rather than comprehensive legislation. The author further discourages adoption of amnesty policies.


**Immigration Policy Center: Unauthorized Immigrants Pay Taxes, Too**

This report examines the amount households headed by unauthorized immigrants pay in taxes. Findings include: (1) at least 50% of unauthorized immigrants pay income taxes; and (2) the states receiving the most tax revenue from this group were California ($2.7 billion), Texas ($1.6 billion), Florida ($806.8 million), New York ($662.4 million), and Illinois ($499.2 million)


**Brookings Institution: Ten Economic Facts About Immigration**

This policy memo explores some of the questions frequently raised around immigration in the United States and provides facts drawn from publicly available data sets and the academic literature. Highlights include: (1) immigrants bring a diverse set of skills and educational backgrounds; (2) on average, immigrants improve the living standards of Americans; (3) both immigration enforcement funding and the number of unauthorized immigrants have increased since 2003; and (4) America is issuing a declining number of visas for high-skill workers.


**Center for Immigration Studies: A State Transformed - Immigration and the New California**

This paper examines the impact of immigration on California's economy, education system, and social services from 1970 to 2008. The authors place significant blame on the large influx of unskilled and uneducated labor for California's worsening education system and high income inequality.


**The Heritage Foundation: The Fiscal Cost of Low-Skill Immigrants to the U.S. Taxpayer**

This report examines the fiscal cost of low-skill immigrants to the United Stated through a fiscal distribution analysis of households headed by immigrants without a high school diploma. The report concludes that immigration policy should encourage high-skill immigration and strictly limit low-skill immigration in order to mitigate unnecessary costs to U.S. taxpayers.

Rector, Robert et al., The Heritage Foundation, *The Fiscal Cost of Low-Skill Immigrants to the U.S. Taxpayer*, May 2007,

- See, Cato Institute: Heritage Immigration Study Fatally Flawed, for an alternative viewpoint

This report examines the 2007 Heritage study's "flawed methodology" in calculating the cost to federal taxpayers of legalizing unauthorized immigrants. The alleged errors in the Heritage study include: (1) counting individuals, not households; (2) employing dynamic scoring rather than static scoring; (3) failing to factor in indirect fiscal effects; and (4) assuming that wages for legalized immigrants would dramatically increase.


EMPLOYMENT, H1-B WORKERS, AGRICULTURE & WAGES

Brookings Institution: Invest But Reform - Better Align H-1B Visa Fee Revenues to Local Workforce Needs

This report argues that the Employment and Training Administration at the Department of Labor should focus its distribution of H-1B visa fee revenue to metropolitan areas with a high demand for H-1B workers to train the existing workforce for high-skilled jobs. To date, fees have been distributed disproportionately to metro areas with a lower demand for H-1B workers. Channeling H-1B technical skills grants to those places with a high demand will expand the pool of local workers possessing needed skills and reduce employers' reliance on foreign labor.


Brookings Institution: The Search for Skills: Demand for H-1B Immigrant Workers in U.S. Metropolitan Areas

This report examines the geography of H-1B visa requests – particularly in the metropolitan areas with the highest demand between 2001 and 2011. Findings include: (1) Demand for H-1B workers has fluctuated with economic and political cycles over the last decade and reflects a wide range of employers' needs for high-skilled temporary workers; (2) in 92 of the 106 high demand metropolitan areas, STEM occupations accounted for more than half of all requests; (3) CA metropolitan areas – Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Jose – made up three of the top four highest areas for H1-B demand; and (4) H-1B visa fees designated for skills training and STEM education have not been proportionately distributed to metro areas requesting the highest number of H-1B workers.


This paper provides background information on the state of the current immigration system and the potential benefits of reform. Findings include: (1) an increasing foreign-born population; (2) long visa wait times for family members of U.S. citizens; and (3) immigrants, on average, raise living standards for American citizens.


This paper proposes market-based reforms to the U.S. immigration system to tie employment-based inflows to labor market demand. Highlights of the proposal include: (1) using market-based mechanisms to allocate temporary employment visas for specific existing categories; (2) simplifying the temporary visa categories, and extending the auction system to include provisional visas that can be converted into permanent residence visas; and (3) expanding market-based reforms to encompass more of the immigration system.


American Enterprise Institute: **The Human Capital Imperative: Bringing More Minds to America**

This paper examines what scholars and the public have learned over the years about the economic effects of adding new skilled immigrants to the work force. Highlights include: (1) skilled immigrants are important for keeping America's competitive edge; (2) stock of human capital amounts to over $750 trillion; and (3) immigrants "clearly" contribute to productivity growth.


California Immigrant Policy Center: **Looking Forward - Immigrant Contributions to the Golden State**

This report compiles data on the economic contributions of immigrants in California. The analysis is organized into sub-sections based on five regions – Kern, Los Angeles, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, and Tulare – in which immigrants represent an important and growing segment of the population. Statewide highlights include: (1) 78% of non-citizen Latinos and 60% non-citizen Asians live in households with citizens; (2) 18% of the voting-age population is non-citizen; (3) non-citizens make up more than 30% of the voting-age population in Santa Ana, East Los Angeles, El Monte, Salinas, and Oxnard; and (4) in terms of occupations, immigrants comprise 81% of those involved in farming, fishing, and forestry.


American Enterprise Institute: **Immigration and American Jobs**

This study examines ways in which to improve the economy and job growth through incremental changes to immigration policy. Highlights include: (1) without a clear path to stay in the US, highly-skilled workers will take their innovation and economic growth elsewhere; (2) adding 100 H-1B workers equates to an additional 183 jobs for American workers; and (3) analysis shows there is no evidence that foreign-born workers hurt US employment.


Center for Immigration Studies: **Is There a Shortage of Skilled Foreign Workers?**

This paper discusses and critiques the current movement toward attracting more science,
technology, engineering, and mathematics immigrants through visas and relaxed regulations.


**Public Policy Institute of California: Illegal Immigration**

This paper examines the current state of illegal immigration in California, including the debate surrounding it. Highlights include: (1) estimates of the number of illegal immigrants; (2) reasons for immigration; and (3) commonalities among illegal immigrants.


**Brookings Institution: The Geography of Immigrant Skills - Educational Profiles Metropolitan Areas**

This paper analyzes the educational attainment among foreign-born adults in the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas. Findings include: (1) 44 of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas are high-skill immigrant destinations, in which college-educated immigrants outnumber immigrants without high school diplomas by at least 25 percent; (2) recent immigrants to metro areas with the fastest-growing immigrant populations have markedly lower educational attainment than immigrants settling elsewhere; and (3) compared with their U.S.-born counterparts, low-skilled immigrants have higher rates of employment and lower rates of household poverty, but also have lower individual earnings, in all types of metro areas.


**Public Policy Institute of California: How Immigrants Affect California Employment and Wages**

This paper examines the effects of the arrival of immigrants between 1960 and 2004 on the employment, population, and wages of U.S. natives in California. Findings include: (1) there is no evidence that the influx of immigrants has worsened the employment opportunities of natives with similar education and experience; (2) there is no association between the influx of immigrants and the out-migration of natives within the same education and age group; (4) immigration induced a 4% real wage increase for the average native worker between 1990 and 2004; and (5) recent immigrants did lower the wages of previous immigrants.


**Previous Efforts, Background Checks, and E-Verify**

**Center for Immigration Studies: What Would It Cost to Really Check an Amnesty Application?**

This paper examines the potential costs of processing amnesty applications on the federal level and proposes a less costly screening system. Highlights include: (1) estimates of application costs for undocumented immigrants; (2) suggested criteria; and (3) a detailed, model screening system.


**Center for Immigration Studies: A Blueprint for Immigration Reform - Revisiting the Jordan Commission Report**
This paper examines the Jordan Commission Report, a document released in 1997 by a bipartisan federal commission that was tasked with studying and issuing recommendations for immigration reform. The Jordan Report recommended integrating the immigrants now in the United States more thoroughly, reducing the total number of legal immigrants to about 550,000 a year, rationalizing the nonimmigrant visa programs and regulating them; enforcing the immigration law vigorously with no further amnesties; and re-organizing the management of the immigration processes within the government.


**Center for Immigration Studies: Before Considering Another Amnesty, Look at IRCA's Lessons**

This paper discusses the major lessons learned from the last major implementation of an immigration reform plan that included amnesty: the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). Among the findings, the author concludes that amnesties without sufficient immigration enforcement lead to more illegal immigration. He also found that IRCA's results suggest that narrower programs are more effective, but that farmworker-specific programs should be avoided due to potential exploitation by agribusiness.


**Public Policy Institute of California: Lessons from the 2007 Legal Arizona Workers Act**

This report analyzes the effects of Arizona's 2007 Legal Arizona Workers Act (LAWA). LAWA was aimed at reducing the reliance on unauthorized workers by mandating the use of E-Verify and by imposing sanctions on employers who continue to hire such workers. The study estimates that from 2008 to 2009 Arizona's population of unauthorized immigrants of working age fell by about 17 percent, or about 92,000 people, as a result of the LAWA.


**American Civil Liberties Union: The Employment Verification System - Not Yet Ready for Primetime**

This report assesses the merits of E-Verify, the employee verification system operated by the Department of Homeland Security, as recently implemented by state and local governments. Findings include: (1) E-Verify has produced inaccurate results, costs to businesses and incentives to engage in racial profiling; and (2) the U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes E-Verify because it can be inefficient, lead to discrimination of foreign-born workers, and invade the privacy rights of American workers.


**The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform (1990-1997) ["Jordan Commission"]**

The bipartisan Jordan Commission, which was created by the Immigration Act of 1990 to evaluate the impact of the Act's provisions and propose policy reforms, issued four reports to Congress recommending changes to the U.S. immigration system in the areas of family reunification, employment-based immigration, enforcement measures to stem unauthorized immigration, and numerical limits on all classes of immigrants, non-immigrants, and asylees.
http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/uscir/becoming/full-report.pdf. (Also see,
Immigration Policy Center's brief summary of the four Jordan Commission reports at:

**PUBLIC OPINION**

**Brookings Institution: Citizenship, Values, & Cultural Concerns - What Americans Want From Immigration Reform**
This report lists findings from the 2013 religion, values, and immigration reform survey. The
survey of nearly 4,500 American adults explores the many divisions – political, religious, ethnic,
geographical, and generational – within the nation over core values and their relationship to
immigration. Highlights include: (1) 63% of those surveyed believe that the immigration system should
deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally by allowing them a way to become
citizens, provided they meet certain requirements; (2) 14% say they should be permitted to become
permanent legal residents but not citizens; (3) 21% agree that they should be identified and deported;
and (4) 71% of Democrats, 64% of independents, and 53% of Republicans favor an earned path to
citizenship.

Jones, Robert P. et al., Brookings Institution & Public Religion Research Institute, *Citizenship, Values, & Cultural Concerns - What Americans Want From Immigration Reform*, March 2013,
http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2013/03/21-immigration-survey-jones-dionne-galston

**POPULATION STUDIES**

**Public Policy Institute of California: California Population - Planning for a Better Future**
This report provides statistics and projections regarding immigration growth in California.
Highlights include: (1) Whites (non-Hispanic) make up 40% of the state's population, and Latinos
making up 38%; (2) the California Department of Finance projects that in 2016 Latinos will replace
whites as the largest ethnic group; and (3) among children age 12 and under, Latinos already make up
52% of the population.


**University of California, Irvine: Southern California Regional Progress Report 2012**
This report provides an overview and analyzes key regional patterns, trends, and challenges facing
Orange County and the broader Southern California region. Highlights include: (1) the influx of Asian
and Latino immigrants into Southern California over the past 60 years has resulted in stronger and safer
multiculture communities; and (2) high levels of ethnic mixing were found to be associated with
increased property values, lower joblessness and less crime in many areas throughout the five counties
studied: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura.


**Public Policy Institute of California: Undocumented Immigrants**
This paper summarizes recent demographic data on undocumented immigrants, including
population, projected growth, and current occupation. Findings include: (1) more than 2 million undocumented immigrants live in California; (2) more undocumented immigrants live in Los Angeles county than any other California region, followed by Orange, San Diego, and Santa Clara counties; and (3) about one in ten workers in California is an undocumented immigrant.