

Immigrant's Rights

NMCDLA believes that:

- Our country is a nation of immigrants; yet, today many immigrants who have successfully led good and peaceful lives in this country face deportation solely because of improper arrest or non-violent criminal conviction.

NMCDLA supports comprehensive immigration reform that:

- Is designed to safeguard the constitutional rights of all people because some constitutional rights apply equally to all people, regardless of a person's immigration status.
- Provides a path to citizenship for people who have spent most of their lives in this country.
- Pardons immigrants convicted of non-violent criminal offenses.
- Mandates that law enforcement officers report undocumented individuals to immigration authorities only following a criminal conviction for a serious felony offense.

NMCDLA opposes immigration policies that:

- Use state laws to target immigrants. Such policies actually threaten public safety by creating fear and distrust in immigrant communities which can prevent people from reporting crimes, seeking help when needed, or cooperating in community policing efforts. In addition, such policies encourage racial profiling and create bias and discrimination in the criminal justice system, which can disproportionately, unjustly, and adversely affect Hispanics in our state.
- Include efforts such as the wholesale deportation of undocumented immigrants that can profoundly disrupt families and communities and can create severe, excessive penalties which are disproportionate to the charged crime.

For further information:

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