



News Release

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## **Now Is The Time To Move Forward With Bipartisan Immigration Reform**

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**Salt Lake City, UT**—Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams is calling for timely review and debate of bipartisan legislation in Congress to modernize and reform the U.S. immigration system. He said he's encouraged by the introduction of a bill by the Senate "Gang of 8" which includes Arizona Republican Sen. Jeff Flake and Colorado Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet.

"It's past time for national immigration reform that promotes national security, keeps families together, ensures fairness to taxpayers and protects human dignity," said McAdams. "For the good of our economy and the immigrant population in Salt Lake County, it is time to achieve progress," said McAdams.

As a Utah State Senator, McAdams was one of the original signers of the Utah Compact—a set of guiding principles for federal immigration reform devised by Utah community leaders, businesses, law enforcement representatives and religious leaders. McAdams said he's encouraged that proposed legislation incorporates some of those principles, as well as creating a tough but fair path toward earned citizenship for immigrants.

McAdams said he's heard from numerous county business leaders that additional immigrant workers with advanced skills are needed to fill the high-tech jobs here, as well as from both the agricultural and hospitality industries who need seasonal help.

"As we do here at the county with e-verify, I encourage the federal government to expand their effective employment verification system that will prevent identity theft and the hiring of future unauthorized workers," McAdams said.

McAdams echoed the expressed hope of Utah religious

leaders that whatever federal legislation is adopted it  
"makes sure that the United States is still a place where  
people can come in a lawful way, and once they come, not  
feel exploited or live in fear."

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