

Justice at Stake



June 21, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

On behalf of Justice at Stake (JAS), a nonpartisan, national partnership¹ of more than fifty organizations dedicated to keeping our courts fair and impartial, I write to express support for an amendment to the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) that would authorize funds from the Comprehensive Immigration Trust Fund to be used to support any additional obligations that the Judiciary might face as a result of passage of comprehensive immigration reform legislation. This bipartisan amendment offered by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) is currently identified as Amendment #1250 to the Manager's Amendment version of S. 744.

As the nation's leaders debate the important issue of immigration reform, we must ensure that the courts have the resources to do what the legislation might require, including the adjudication of thousands of additional applications for citizenship. The authorization to use the Comprehensive Immigration Trust Fund is particularly critical because any additional burden on the federal judiciary will follow on the heels of the deep cuts required by sequestration and years of woeful underfunding. Quite simply, the judiciary wants the resources necessary to faithfully discharge its duties under the Constitution and all federal laws, including any duties entailed by the passage of new laws.

JAS expresses its gratitude to you and your staff for your tireless efforts on behalf of the American public. If your staff members have any questions or want any additional information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at pfernandes@justiceatstake.org. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Praveen Fernandes
Acting Director of Policy and Advocacy

¹ As with any diverse partnership, the views stated in this Justice at Stake letter do not necessarily reflect the positions of every JAS partner organization or board member.