

April 2019

Statement from Congressman Bruce Braley

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Friends:

Thank you for gathering in Cedar Rapids today to remember the lasting effects of the immigration raids at Agriprocessors in Postville, Iowa on May 12, 2008. Today, we remember the 389 workers that were arrested on that day. Many of these workers had been subject to violations of health and safety laws, child labor laws, and sexual harassment and assault.

The size and scope of what happened in Postville truly brought home to people across the country the magnitude of the immigration problem we face. This isn't just a problem in border states – it's a problem in the heartland too, a national issue that demands our attention and a meaningful solution.

It also showed that no one wins in our current immigration system. There's a tremendous human toll to inaction on immigration reform, and we witnessed that in Postville. Children who were separated from their families, workers who were taken advantage of, and a community that is still working to recover from the events of that day.

For the first time, we're getting closer to a bipartisan agreement on immigration, and we have to get it done to prevent another Postville from happening again. We must work to bring forth fair and just immigration reform that offers a reasonable solution to the issue of having over 11 million undocumented immigrants in our country, but that also ensures that employers can no longer take advantage of undocumented workers.

Sincerely,

Bruce Braley
Member of Congress