



# The Choice Before Us

## Letters to President Obama

Edited and compiled by the Center for Community Change, Northwest Federation of Community Organizations and National Korean American Service & Education Consortium.

On September 17, 2009, almost 300 of people from over 30 states gathered in Washington, D.C. for the Unity in Movement Citizenship Day Mobilization.

Moved by President Obama's call for a true and more perfect union, those gathered celebrated their vision of citizenship.

Their vision reflects the values of unity, hope, and community. It calls for a renewed spirit of shared fate and responsibility for one another. And it rejects the politics of divisiveness and vitriol.

These letters to President Obama echo the values celebrated at the Citizenship Day Mobilization. The people who have written these letters have been inspired by the words of President Obama. Now they urge the President to make those words a reality.

In the United States today, tens of millions of people wonder whether they will be able to get health care if they should fall ill or become injured. They see their livelihoods, homes, and survival in jeopardy. And they know that their suffering will cause others to suffer: the children who rely on them, the families that love them, and the friends and neighbors with whom they have created community. The failure of our health care system casts a wide net.

Years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told us, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Realizing the promise of the United States means that inequity in health care must be eradicated and replaced with a renewed commitment to inclusion, community, and shared fate. We have been taken off track from these values in the health care debate, which has been marked by a turning away from responsibility for one another. To rebuild the health care system, we must return to our values. And we must remind ourselves of the importance of a vision of citizenship based on caring and community.

*Opening remarks delivered by Deepak Bhargava at the Unity in Movement Citizenship Day, September 18, 2009.*

Good afternoon, brothers and sisters.

Unity in Movement is a beautiful, joyous sight. We are gathered here today as diverse community members from all parts of this country joined in common purpose to celebrate Citizenship Day and reflect on the meaning of citizenship at this crucial moment in our nation's history when not just public policy but the values and character of our country are at stake.

I know that many of you, like me, have been shocked and saddened by the anger, the name calling, the racism, and the hate we have seen in recent months – at town hall meetings, in the media, and even in from our elected representatives in Congress. We should remember that the anger and hate we are seeing in the national debate is not new.

American history at its core been a struggle between two visions of citizenship: one that would restrict citizenship to a few – those with enough property, white people, men, and the native-born – one that seeks to expand citizenship to include everyone. Many of us would not be here today were it not for people like Frederick Douglas who fought to abolish slavery and Susan B. Anthony who marched to give women the vote, and in so doing to make our democracy real. Those incredible Americans and millions of everyday people faced opposition and hatred and violence that was even more intense than what we are facing today. We are the ones who carry the torch for those values of inclusion and democracy for this generation of Americans. It is the highest of all calls that we have answered, and no one said it would be easy. We must take heart in the fact that though there are very difficult moments in our journey, as Martin Luther King said, "The arc of history is long, but it bends towards justice."

For those of us gathered here today, citizenship is not just a piece of paper. It is about the contributions we make in our communities every day to make the lives of our neighbors better. It is about community values of caring and inclusion. It is about our character. As I look around today, I see leaders who embody the values that define citizenship.

- ◆ Adán Ramírez, a retired sheep shearer, now lives in senior housing and registered over 100 people to vote in 2008. Just as importantly his community knows to drop off broken bicycles at his house because he rebuilds them for the neighborhood children.
- ◆ Tu Thomas Hoang, a graduate student in political science is a member of Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association and volunteers in his community in Louisiana to help rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.
- ◆ Charles Yun immigrated to the United States from Korea in 1975, joined the United States Army, and served in the military for 20 years. He has helped many immigrants navigate the immigration system, get health care for their children, and help their families become economically secure.

These are only a few stories of the hundreds I could have chosen to read today. We are Korean and white and Latino and Vietnamese and African American and Native American. We are immigrants and native-born. We are women and men, from the north and south, the east and the west. We are Republicans as well as Democrats. What unites us is a common idea of what it means to be a citizen. The remarkable people here today hold in their hearts and express in their actions every day a generous vision of what

citizenship means. Citizenship is about our responsibility to care for one another. It means living with the deep knowledge that our fates are linked, that we cannot succeed or find happiness or fulfillment while our neighbors are suffering. We acknowledge that we rise or fall together as one people.

This community-based vision of citizenship, elevated by President Obama again and again, is once again under attack. Some are bringing guns to town hall meetings to intimidate others. Others engage in hate speech that targets members of our community and incites violence. Many are fanning flames of hate and undermining the civility and respect that are so essential to a democratic society.

What is underneath all this anger and this hate? A vision of society in which we are all on our own and have to fight to protect what little we have because there isn't enough to go around. It is a vision which says that our neighbor is not only not our responsibility, but she is our enemy. It is a vision grounded in fear, isolation, and yes – grounded in racism.

Brothers and sisters, this is once again a time for choosing in America. Not just between one health care plan over another, but also what kind of country we strive to be. Which vision of citizenship do we embrace? A vision that excludes or one that includes? A vision that says that we are all on our own, in a constant state of war with one another or one that tries to build a beloved community in which each of us has a place of respect and dignity?

This is a time for choosing in America. We are at a crossroads as a nation, and today WE choose the path of justice, community, and love.



"[Abraham Lincoln] recognized that while each of us must do our part, work as hard as we can, and be as responsible as we can – in the end, there are certain things we cannot do on our own. There are certain things we can only do together. There are certain things only a union can do...

"...Only a union could serve the hopes of every citizen – to knock down the barriers to opportunity and give each and every person the chance to pursue the American dream. Lincoln understood what Washington understood when he led farmers, craftsmen, and shopkeepers to rise up against an empire. What Roosevelt understood when he lifted us from Depression, built an arsenal of democracy, and created the largest middle-class in history with the GI Bill. It's what Kennedy understood when he sent us to the moon.

"...Only by coming together, all of us, and expressing that sense of shared sacrifice and responsibility – for ourselves and one another – can we do the work that must be done in this country. That is the very definition of being American."

– *President Barack Obama,  
Lincoln Speech, February 13,  
2009*

Dear President Obama,

Our broken health care system killed my daughter.

To me, being a citizen means being an active member in your community, standing up for your rights, and helping others through hardships that prevent them from either being a citizen, or from fully realizing their rights. As a person with a disability, I rely on public programs – and despite some of the difficulty I've had with some of them, I count on them to be there.

My daughter, Tiffany, unfortunately did not have that support. When she first got sick when she was 27, she had insurance through her job, but when she got too sick to work, she lost her job, and then she lost her health insurance. That meant she couldn't afford to go to the doctor regularly, or get the medications she needed. When her organs began to fail, doctors said that it was because she hadn't gotten the right treatment.

My daughter died in 2007, as a result of pulmonary hypertension, which could likely have been prevented with regular check-ups. Tiffany left behind three young children, who will grow up with the support of their family, but without their mother. This is why public programs are so important. She didn't have an affordable back-up once she lost her job, and I'm sure there are thousand, millions of people out there in Tiffany's situation.

We need strong, affordable public programs that everyone can rely on when we need it most. What is

the Administration going to do to strengthen public programs that people rely on, and make sure that children don't lose their parents, no one suffers or dies, just because of a broken health care system?

Sincerely,

Gina Owens  
*Seattle, Washington*

Dear President Obama,

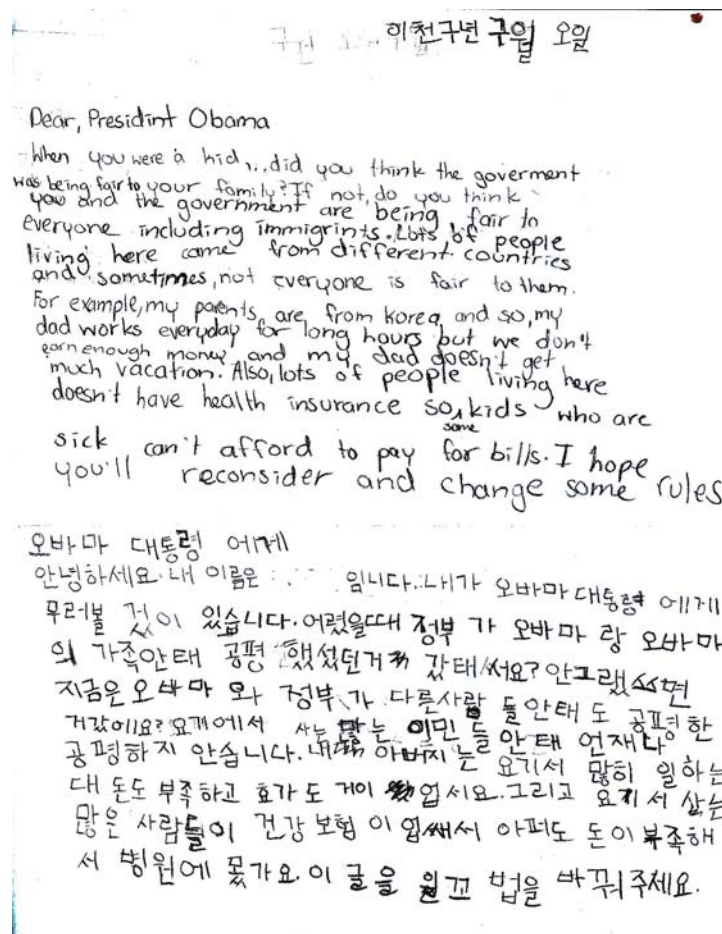
When you were a kid, did you think the government was being fair to your family? If not, do you think you and the government are being fair to everyone including the immigrants. Lots of people living here came from different countries and sometimes, not everyone is fair to them.

For example, my parents are from Korea and so my dad works everyday for long hours but we don't earn enough money and my dad doesn't get much vacation. Also, lots of people living here doesn't have health insurance so some kids who are sick can't afford to pay for bills. I hope you'll reconsider and change some rules.



Sincerely,

Joanne (5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Los Angeles, California



**Dear President Obama,**

In honor of Citizenship Day, I ask you to hold true to your promise of challenging unjust laws that make us unequal. I am an Ojibwe from Missoula, Montana. I have been a community organizer and civil rights activist for over half of my life. I am here to support the need for an end to health disparities and for responsible and meaningful health care reform.

I want to thank everybody who worked to make this Citizenship Day event possible. I am truly humbled and awed by their dedication, effort, unity and sincerity. We truly stand as one here today.

This proposed legislation, by the Senate Finance Committee, in its current state, will create the very structural inequality you detest—for countless Americans from every walk of life. I appeal to you to remember the children and future generations, who have the right to prosperity, liberty, and equality. I speak here today for the silent.

I dedicate my speech to a lovely young lady who was buried yesterday, Elmina Gopher Eagleman, and died on September 12, 2009. She died from lack of proper mental health counseling and resources; she took her own life. This is a needless tragedy that health disparities create. Montana Native Americans have the highest suicide rate of any group in the nation. The first people of this nation need effective reform that is inclusive of our new reality; a growing urban experience and diminishing care.

Dear President, be the change you seek; as you have often exalted us to be. Gitchi Manitou—(pity us).

Sincerely,

**Melinda Gopher**  
*Missoula, Montana*



I've been uninsured since 2001. I'd been working for 16 years in the same packing house. Over that time I hurt my back and my feet on the cement floors, causing nerve damage in both feet. I can't work there with those kinds of problems and so I've started doing landscaping and other odd jobs to fill the economic gaps. Part-time work rarely offers health insurance though and doesn't pay enough for me to buy an individual plan.

**Allen Adams**  
*Fremont, Nebraska*

Dear President Obama,

I volunteer as a clinical professor at the UCLA Department of Family Medicine and, in 2008, began a monthly community health clinic at the Korean Resource Center (KRC) with a group of Korean American med students. At the clinic, we treat low-income uninsured Korean Americans.

Korean Americans disproportionately lack health coverage and use fewer services than they need. My heart especially goes out to uninsured people that came to this country to live a better life. Although they pay no less taxes than others, no matter how dire their financial situation, they do not qualify for public programs that citizens qualify for. Many community leaders try to alleviate this situation by setting up free clinics and sponsoring and volunteering at health fairs. However, the problem cannot be solved by free clinics and health fairs alone.

Every day I meet Korean Americans who go from health fair to health fair, unaware of the in-depth care they need. I have also met many who have been lost in the sea of frustration and disappointment trying to access that care. Some have wept uncontrollably in front of me, recounting how they have exhausted all possibilities, stood in line, and waited for hours on end only to have doors shut in their faces. People I have met at community clinics include:

- ◆ an elderly gentlemen diagnosed with diabetes more than 20 years ago but had never gone to a physician because he was uninsured;
- ◆ a woman with cancer who had never received treatment;
- ◆ community members with high cholesterol and blood pressure who cannot afford medicine;
- ◆ a financially and emotionally desolate woman with whom the medical students and I talked to for over an hour. If we had not been there that day, it is



plausible that she may have taken her own life. Affordable and culturally and linguistically appropriate psychiatric services are lacking in the Korean American community.

Rather than trying to patch up the tattered cloth of the U.S. health care system, we need to contribute to the making of the new garb, starting from the fundamental weaving of the fabric. The U.S. is our home, and we Korean Americans and immigrants see the need to make this country livable for us and those who come after us. We all – churches, clinics, businesses, community organizations, schools, adults, children, old and young – need to come together to mount an effective movement toward reform.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Angela Jo

Rural Idaho needs your help. My name is Jolene Poen and I have lived in Downey, Idaho for nine years. I believe citizenship means being a good community member, someone who contributes to the community. I do not think it is about being born in a certain place.

Currently, I am serving my community by volunteering at a rural food pantry and Toys for Tots, standing up for people that cannot stand up for themselves through the Idaho Community Action network. I also encourage my children to be active in our community by having them volunteer with me.

There are many challenges to living in rural Idaho. While I am lucky to have the coverage I need for my family, many others in my community do not. And for the rural area, simple coverage is not enough. It is hard enough just to find a doctor. The local hospital is 50 miles away and, depending on their health coverage, some people end up having to drive 100 miles just to go to the doctor.

The one message I'd like to send to Congress and you is that we need reform solutions that support everyone in America and pay attention to the millions of people in this country who live in rural areas.

And I am here to make a commitment to you to stand up for our shared values and be a visible supporter of health care reform.

**Jolene Poen**  
*Downey, Idaho*

“It was in this America where an Atlanta scholar named W.E.B. Du Bois, man of towering intellect and a fierce passion for justice, sparked what became known as the Niagara movement; where reformers united, not by color, but by cause; where an association was born that would, as its charter says, promote equality and eradicate prejudice among citizens of the United States.

“From the beginning, these founders understood how change would come – just as King and all the civil rights giants did later. They understood that unjust laws needed to be overturned; that legislation needed to be passed; and that Presidents needed to be pressured into action. They knew that the stain of slavery and the sin of segregation had to be lifted in the courtroom, and in the legislature, and in the hearts and the minds of Americans.

“They also knew that here, in America, change would have to come from the people. It would come from people protesting lynchings, rallying against violence, all those women who decided to walk instead of taking the bus, even though they were tired after a long day of doing somebody else's laundry, looking after somebody else's children...

“Because of what they did, we are a more perfect union....”

“But make no mistake: The pain of discrimination is still felt in America. By African American women paid less for doing the same work as colleagues of a different color and a different gender. By Latinos made to feel unwelcome in their own country. By Muslim Americans viewed with suspicion simply because they kneel down to pray to their God. By our gay brothers and sisters, still taunted, still attacked, still denied their rights.

“But we also know that prejudice and discrimination – at least the most blatant types of prejudice and discrimination – are not even the steepest barriers to opportunity today. The most difficult barriers include structural inequalities that our nation's legacy of discrimination has left behind; inequalities still plaguing too many communities and too often the object of national neglect.

– *President Barack Obama, Speech to the NAACP, July 17, 2009*

Dear President Obama,

I am here today because I almost lost my mother because of the lack of access to quality health care.

My name is Catherine Pyun and I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Korean American, born and raised in California. My great-grandfather was one of the first Korean immigrants to this country.



Currently, I am actively working with the Korean community in the Bay Area. I have been involved for many years in nonprofit work because to me, giving back is an important part of being a citizen of this country.

Because my family has always been a guiding inspiration in my life, I jumped at the chance to work for the Korean community when the opportunity arose. I wanted to help others who are in similar situations as my mother.

In her case, my mother almost passed away because of the lack of language access and cultural competency in the treatment of her aggressive liver disease. The inability to effectively communicate with the medical community caused barriers to appropriate care.

My mother was one of the lucky ones: she was able to receive a transplant. But stories like hers don't only impact those who are sick. They affect the families and support networks of those who become ill.

When my mother became sick, my sister went on leave from work to be my mother's caretaker. She was out for so long she eventually lost her job. My sister can't find a job now, let alone one that provides health benefits. Because of a pre-existing condition, she cannot afford health care on her own. She remains uninsured and runs the risk of developing a serious health condition herself. We have learned that when the system fails one of us, it fails all of us.

President Obama, I strongly urge you to work with Congress on a health care plan that provides quality care that is accessible and affordable to all because good health is the right of all people.

Sincerely,

**Catherine Pyun**  
*California*

“And yet words on a parchment would not be enough to deliver slaves from bondage, or provide men and women of every color and creed their full rights and obligations as citizens of the United States. What would be needed were Americans in successive generations who were willing to do their part – through protests and struggle, on the streets and in the courts, through a civil war and civil disobedience and always at great risk – to narrow that gap between the promise of our ideals and the reality of their time.

“...[W]hat we know – what we have seen – is that America can change. That is the true genius of this nation. What we have already achieved gives us hope – the audacity to hope – for what we can and must achieve tomorrow.

“In the white community, the path to a more perfect union means acknowledging that what ails the African-American community does not just exist in the minds of black people; that the legacy of discrimination – and current incidents of discrimination, while less overt than in the past – are real and must be addressed. Not just with words, but with deeds – by investing in our schools and our communities; by enforcing our civil rights laws and ensuring fairness in our criminal justice system; by providing this generation with ladders of opportunity that were unavailable for previous generations. It requires all Americans to realize that your dreams do not have to come at the expense of my dreams; that investing in the health, welfare, and education of black and brown and white children will ultimately help all of America prosper.

“In the end, then, what is called for is nothing more, and nothing less, than what all the world’s great religions demand - that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Let us be our brother’s keeper, Scripture tells us. Let us be our sister’s keeper. Let us find that common stake we all have in one another, and let our politics reflect that spirit as well.

– *Senator Barack Obama, Speech on Race, March 2008*

Dear President Obama,

We are a married couple living on a farm. I have insurance and Steve does not. While he prefers farming, he now plans to begin driving trucks because making a living on a farm is getting more and more difficult.

I have already started working at a local grocery store where I am eligible for health insurance, although it is still too costly to add Steve and doesn't cover many of my expenses.

As we try to have a child we are concerned about how we will be able to insure our future son or daughter, as there are just not enough employers who offer health insurance in our area.

Sincerely,

**Kendra and Steve Koblentz**  
*Rolla, Missouri*

Dear President Obama,

Our story is one of tragedy involving the loss of our 16-year-old daughter, which, as difficult as it is to recount, illustrates why your battle to reform health insurance is vital to our country.

On August 5, 2009, our daughter Codi was hit by a car while riding her bicycle in a crosswalk as she was returning from her summer job as a lifeguard and swim teacher. Codi was wearing a helmet, yet she sustained massive brain injuries and spent five days in intensive care. She underwent two brain surgeries and numerous other procedures. Despite a dedicated effort, Codi succumbed on August 10. On August 14, we said good-bye to Codi as she was laid to rest.

Little did we realize that the pain and grief associated with Codi's death would not end with her funeral. The man who hit Codi had a \$20,000 car insurance policy, the minimum permitted under Maryland law. However, the costs of her health care far exceeded his coverage.

Our health insurance is with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. We are self-employed and have been paying high deductible premiums for well over five years under this particular plan. Because the driver of the car was underinsured, Blue Cross/Blue Shield will not be able to recover their total costs from his policy. Instead, Blue Cross/Blue Shield will also subrogate against our car insurance policy. They are permitted to collect against our car insurance policy despite the fact that Codi was not in our car when she hit. She was riding a bicycle.

In essence, we are paying for the total costs of her health care although we pay health insurance premiums. In addition, we will not be able to recover the costs of her funeral, burial plot, and other associated expenses because Blue Cross/Blue Shield collects first. Furthermore, we are required to pay the total amount of our family deductible and our out-of-pocket expenses before Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage will apply.

Let us share one more situation which highlights why health care reform is urgently needed. When Codi received her driver's permit she indicated she wanted to be an organ donor. We honored her request and as a result two people have had their eyesight restored from her corneas. Her right kidney and pancreas were donated to a grandfather in the Washington, D.C. area, and her left kidney was donated to a 46-year-old father. Yet, on the day learned that her kidneys and pancreas were successfully transplanted, we received a letter from Suburban General Hospital in Bethesda (where Codi was treated) that stated unless we provided our car insurance information within ten days we would be responsible for the entire cost of Codi's treatment.

Mr. President, we urge you to prevent this from happening to another family. Please bring affordable and fair health care to all Americans. Behind the politics are people. No family should have to lose a child and have to bear both the emotional burdens and financial costs because the health insurance system is broken.

Sincerely,

**Bruce Alexander and Lisa Polak**  
*Gaithersburg, Maryland*



Dear President Obama,

For more than forty-four years, I've relied on Indian Health Services, and I've had a lot of struggles. Luckily, I've managed to stay healthy overall. But, now, I have some serious dental problems, and IHS hasn't been able to help.

IHS simply doesn't have the resources to serve the Indian community. Rosebud has the facilities and equipment of a real hospital, but doesn't have the funding to staff it. When my daughter was about to be born, we wanted her to be delivered in her ancestral homeland, on the Rosebud Reservation. There weren't any obstetricians that day, though, so we had to go to Nebraska for a doctor!

There are many great people within IHS, but they can do only so much with the limited resources provided them. This represents a failure of the U.S. government to fulfill its obligations under the Fort Laramie treaty and its trust relationship with American Indian people. My hope is that sharing our stories will lead to unity and affirm a commitment to affordable health care for all. It is a basic human right.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Iron Shell**  
*Rapid City, South Dakota*

"This campaign has to be about reclaiming the meaning of citizenship, restoring our sense of common purpose, and realizing that few obstacles can withstand the power of millions of voices calling for change.

"By ourselves, this change will not happen. Divided, we are bound to fail.

"But the life of a tall, gangly, self-made Springfield lawyer tells us that a different future is possible.

"He tells us that there is power in words.

"He tells us that there is power in conviction.

"That beneath all the differences of race and region, faith and station, we are one people.

"He tells us that there is power in hope.

"As Lincoln organized the forces arrayed against slavery, he was heard to say: 'Of strange, discordant, and even hostile elements, we gathered from the four winds, and formed and fought to battle through.'" That is our purpose here today.'

– *Senator Barack Obama, Announcement of Candidacy for President, February 10, 2007*

Dear President Obama,

My name is Alexander Tsao and I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Asian American college student in Missouri, where I have lived for the past 12 years.

My parents are small business owners in Sedalia, Missouri, who have had trouble navigating the public health care programs as first generation immigrants. When I turned 19, I was no longer eligible for insurance under my parents. Since then, I have actively sought health insurance coverage, but significant obstacles leave me uninsured today.



At college, the insurance plan requires up-front payment and I did not have enough money to afford that coverage. I tried to work, but being a full-time student leaves little time for a job that might offer health insurance. The university provides one check-up per semester, but that doesn't cover any needed follow-up treatments.

Without insurance, I am pressured to take extra care in all of my activities. Often, I need to do self-diagnoses and just hope for the best. I know I am among millions that have the same worries as I do, and I think this is wrong – I think everyone should have the peace of mind that they can afford to be healthy. President Obama, I urge you to remember that health care is a basic right, and that everyone should have access.

Sincerely,

**Alexander Tsao**  
*Missouri*

*Closing remarks delivered by Deepak Bhargava at the Unity in Movement Citizenship Day, September 18, 2009.*

Brothers and sisters.

I am moved by what I heard today – the inspiring words of our President, but also YOUR words, the hardship and suffering of our nation's failure to live up to these ideals.

What I heard is a vision of citizenship that speaks to a vision of our history in which we have come together time and time again as one people to redress the great wrongs of our time to make a more perfect union. We embrace a great moral vision that calls upon us to lift up and embrace those who are oppressed, exploited and suffering. Today, we affirm those values and we make that tradition of collective struggle for justice our own.

What I heard is a vision of citizenship that says that we are NOT a series of competing interest groups clamoring for our piece of the pie at the expense of others. We are NOT individuals who live in our private pain, or in fear of our neighbors. We do not feel better about ourselves by tearing other people down. When we live according to those values, we see the suffering, the pain, and the death that we have heard about that is pervasive in our broken health care system.

We are a FAMILY that cares for each other. WE can cross boundaries that divide and take the leap of moral imagination to understand each other and feel empathy for one another. We will not stand silently by while others are in pain. We will not allow politicians to demonize anyone, and we will hold them accountable to our American values when they try to score cheap political points by attacking the weakest among us.

What does this mean? It means that if we are not an immigrant, justice for immigrants is OUR issue and we will speak up. If we are not poor, justice for the poor is OUR issue and we will speak up. If we live in an urban area, what happens to our rural neighbors is OUR issue and we will speak up. We do this because we recognize that, as Martin Luther King said, we are bound up in a single garment of destiny, and that when injustice affects one directly, it affects all of us indirectly.

The truth, brothers and sisters, is that the vision we have heard today of a beloved community is not a dream. It is not unrealistic. It is not naïve. It is the only possible path forward. Our presence here today renews the true meaning of citizenship, and the work of our hearts, our minds and our hands will give it life. And because of what I see today and what I have heard, I have no doubt that our values and our vision will ultimately triumph.

Thank you very much.

## About Unity in Movement

Organized by the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), Unity in Movement 2009 National Mobilization for Citizenship Day was a vibrant and meaningful event engaging close to 300 participants from over 30 states. The participants truly represented the best in citizenship; they were immigrants, non-immigrants, working parents, professionals, small business owners, children as young as four years old and seniors over eighty. Through this event, we are reminded of the enduring spirit of citizenship and our continuing social responsibility to engage all sectors of society towards building a better America for all.

We came to D.C. to reject disruption and rancor and to promote new and workable solutions for repairing broken systems and ways. In the process, we hoped to both broaden the meaning of citizenship and by extension, foster an appreciation of community values. The health dialogue and noontime rally punctuated the urgent need to stand firm for immigrant inclusion in health reform proposals. Afterwards, community members participated in 93 legislative visits to their representatives in Congress. Unity in Movement was an important step in moving our work forward.



## Unity in Movement: 2009 National Mobilization for Citizenship Day Participating Organizations

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
Center for Community Change  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement  
Health Rights Organizing Project  
Korean Resource Center  
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

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Arkansas ACORN	Native American Women's Vote
Asian American Journalist Association	Nebraska Appleseed
Baram Sori Children's Culture Troupe	New Labor
California Partnership	New York Immigration Coalition
Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia	OneAmerica
CAPI	Oregon Action
CASA de Maryland	Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation
CAUSA Oregon	Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.	Sunflower Community Action
Chinatown Community Development Center	Tenants and Workers
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition	United Native Voters
Colorado Progressive Coalition	Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans
Commission on the Status of Iowans of Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage	Virginia Organizing Project
Florida Immigration Coalition	Washington Community Action Network
Gamaliel Foundation	
Gamaliel – San Diego	
HanNuRi Cultural Troupe	
Idaho Community Action Network	
Il Kwa Nori Cultural Troupe	
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights	
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement	
Jang-Gu-Hak-Dang	
Korean American Coalition – Atlanta	
Korean American Women in Need	
Korean Community Center of the East Bay	
LULAC Arkansas	
Maine People's Alliance	
Make the Road New York	
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition	
Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength	
Montanans for Health Care	
MX for Immigration Reform	
National Immigration Forum	
National Training and Information Center	