

Immigrant Children

A very significant portion of America's diverse child population comes from immigrant families, both documented and undocumented. Some state and federal policies place restrictions upon serving immigrant children that can impact their health, safety, education, and development. Immigration policy is a child issue. Children of immigrant parents can have their lives disrupted in the enforcement of immigration policies on their parents. Immigration policy is a child issue.

As U.S. Senator, what role should the federal government play regarding immigration policy and providing for immigrant children and their health, education, and other needs?



GRASSLEY: The federal government holds the prime responsibility regarding immigration policy and in 1982, the Supreme Court held (in *Plyer v. Doe*) that all children

and students from kindergarten thru the 12th grade children, regardless of their legal status, have the right to an education in the United States.



CONLIN: Only the Federal Government can make immigration policy and as part of our Constitution, a child born within our borders is a United States citizen and

enjoys the same privileges and benefits as all other citizens, and efforts to restrict access to health, education, and other needs are reprehensible. As we have seen with the fallout from the ICE raid in Postville, there are many instances in which families are separated or facing the difficult situation of deportation. We must work to balance family cohesion and the immigration laws. I also support the DREAM Act.