



CMEAA
COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN
AMERICAN AFFAIRS
M I C H I G A N

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Reason for Reform Campaign Highlights New Data Showing the Economic Impact of Immigrants in Michigan

Local leaders call for immigration reform in National Day of Action with events across all 50 states

LANSING, Michigan — Today, local leaders from around the state came together for a Day of Action to showcase new research on immigration contributions in Michigan and highlight the critical need for immigration reform. The event marked the launch of the *Reason for Reform* campaign, an effort taking place in all 50 states today, sponsored by the Partnership for a New American Economy (PNAE).

The *Reason for Reform* campaign brings together state business, civic, and cultural leaders to urge Congress to take action on immigration reform. Today's Michigan Day of Action event coincides with the release of a [new report](#) on immigrant contributions in Michigan. The research includes data on the foreign-born population in the state, including tax contributions, spending power, and their role in Michigan's key industries as leaders and job creators.

“This report demonstrates that immigration brings wealth, jobs and economic growth to our communities” said Manal Saab, Chair of CMEAA. “The commission remains focused on making Michigan a more welcoming state and will work with our state partners to urge Congress to take action on immigration reform.”

The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan shows that immigrants make up 6.5 percent of the state's population and contributed \$5.4 billion in taxes, or nearly 8 percent of the total share in 2014. Of that foreign-born population in the state, their total income for 2014 was \$19.6 billion, or 7.9 percent of all earnings in the state.



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In 2014, Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) immigrant households in Michigan earned over \$2.8 billion dollars. With those earnings, MENA households contributed over \$753.5 million dollars in local, state and federal taxes.

Immigrants in Michigan contribute to key industries, such as computer technology, agriculture and higher education. They make up 8.3 percent of all entrepreneurs in the state, and play a large role in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, a major component of U.S. economic growth. These and other key statistics on immigrants in Michigan can be found in the PNAE report [here](#).

The Reason for Reform campaign is launching in all 50 states today to urge Congress to take action on immigration. More information can be found at www.RenewOurEconomy.org.

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About the Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs

The Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA) is a 15-member council under the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Governor on issues facing the Middle Eastern American community in Michigan. The Commission's mission is to empower, promote and advance the Middle Eastern American community in the State of Michigan. Learn more about CMEAA at <http://www.michigan.gov/cmeaa>.

About the Partnership for a New American Economy

The Partnership for a New American Economy brings together more than 500 Republican, Democratic and Independent mayors and business leaders who support immigration reforms that will help create jobs for Americans today. The Partnership's members include mayors of more than 35 million people nationwide and business leaders of companies that generate more than \$1.5 trillion and employ more than 4 million people across all sectors of the economy, from Agriculture to Aerospace, Hospitality to High Tech and Media to Manufacturing. Partnership members understand that immigration is essential to maintaining the productive, diverse and flexible workforce that America needs to ensure prosperity over the coming generations. Learn more at www.RenewOurEconomy.org.