



Stanford eCorner

Fighting for Immigration Reform

Laurene Powell Jobs, *Emerson Collective*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/3489/Fighting-for-Immigration-Reform>

Laurene Powell Jobs, founder and chair of the Emerson Collective, explains why immigration reform is crucial. "There's never been a time when our economic engine hasn't been fueled by new immigrants," Powell Jobs says to Stanford Professor Tom Byers, adding that her organization must content with those in the American citizenry and U.S. politics who choose to scapegoat.



Transcript

There has never been a time when our economic engine hasn't been fuelled by new immigrants to our country it's our replenishing, it's our refueling, it's essential for the continuation and the continued economic growth for our country. We know this, however, people - when people are suffering, they like scapegoating others and there are some people who are serving in the United States Congress who are completely rigid and there are a few who have a big megaphone who are hatemongering and it's to the detriment of all of us. Now we have had across our country a desire for immigration reform for years. And at ... Both parties? Across the United States. Yes, all kinds of administrations, yes. So at Emerson, another tool that we use is we do a lot of national and local polling and so in this case we did a lot of polling in districts, in communities, in states, nationally, so that we were informed again we gathered data, we listened to people, we did focus groups, I attended focus groups in Arizona and Texas and Ohio and Virginia and no matter what the majority of the people and most of them were Republican audiences, the majority of them wanted common sense immigration reform. In fact we have a super majority of Americans who want this. It's not happening. Right now we do not have a representative democracy around this issue and that needs to change.

And so, we ask ourselves well given this set of information, how do we actually effect change? How do we try to raise the consciousness, raise the awareness, bring this to the fore, so that constituents actually speak out to their representatives and say in this case, because federal policy is the end goal. There is not a lot of mitigation between what we can do as citizens and what the federal policy can do for them. So we can start demanding that they - that their votes reflect our wishes.