

March 23, 2007

Dear President Bush and Members of Congress,

As the debate on immigration reform begins in earnest in the 110th Congress, the undersigned organizations urge you – in the strongest possible terms – to enact workable comprehensive immigration reform this year. Our message is simple: get it done, do it right, and make it work.

Immigrant workers and families are desperate for real reform, as are American workers who want a level playing field and decent employers who want a legal workforce. State and local governments are frustrated that politicians in Washington produce more talk than action on a priority only federal policy makers can realistically address. The public is tired of partisan posturing and finger pointing. They want their leaders to lead, to solve tough problems on a bipartisan basis, and to produce results, not excuses.

Workable comprehensive immigration reform *is* the solution. Enforcement-only efforts have not worked in the past and will not work in the future. Rounding up or attempting to force out 12 million undocumented immigrants is neither feasible nor desirable. Most undocumented immigrants live in families, most have been here for more than five years, and as workers they fill one out of every 20 jobs in the United States. Fixing our broken immigration system requires a broader approach, a strategy that aims to replace an unregulated, chaotic, and abusive system with a controlled, limited, and legal system.

Attached are principles that have long guided our work. These will continue to serve as our anchor during the upcoming legislative debate and as the basis for assessing legislative proposals. Our principles are about restoring the rule of law, providing a path to earned citizenship, protecting immigrant and American workers alike, reuniting families, respecting due process, and helping newcomers become new Americans while helping the communities in which they settle. This combination – enacted together – will work to bring immigrants out of the shadows and under a realistic regulatory regime. An effectively-reformed immigration system will serve national interests by supporting economic growth, social mobility, strong families, labor rights, civil rights, political rights, and law and order.

On one particular component – the future flow of needed workers – we want to make our position clear. The undersigned organizations oppose new “guest worker” programs. Instead, we support new worker visas with an earned path to citizenship. Work-and-return guest worker programs that tie workers to individual employers and compel workers to leave the country when their short-term visa expires simply will not work. When the immigration status of workers and their right to stay in the country depends on an employer, the resulting imbalance of power inevitably fosters exploitation. This, in turn, undercuts the wages and working conditions of native-born and immigrant low-wage workers alike. What we do support is a “break the mold” new worker visa program, one that guarantees needed immigrant workers renewable long-term visas, full labor rights, the right to change jobs, wage protections, the right to join a union, the right to be with close family members, the protection of constitutional rights, and the realistic option of a path to earned citizenship. We also believe that workable comprehensive immigration reform must serve the interests of native-born workers. In addition to eliminating

the perverse effects of our broken immigration system on native-born workers, we need to address the needs of unemployed or underemployed American workers by strengthening the reach and effectiveness of job programs and anti-discrimination measures in order to improve skills training and access to jobs.

Finally, let us never forget that the immigration reform debate is about real people. Undocumented immigrants live in our communities, have loving families, work hard, pay taxes, and believe deeply in the American Dream. They bus tables, clean buildings, cook food, care for children, tend gardens, tend to the elderly, construct houses, clean hotel rooms, pick crops, produce food, and so much more. They have voted with their feet to be here. Many have risked their lives in the process of getting here. And far too many have died horrible deaths in the desert seeking only a better life for their families.

Immigrant workers and families want to be here with legal immigration status. Requirements that include paying a fine, studying English, and going to the back of the line are not a problem as long as the process is workable and there is a line for earned citizenship to get into. And that line cannot keep people in legal limbo or create huge backlogs that would deter people from coming forward or from becoming new Americans. Immigrants in the U.S. want to be accepted and recognized for their contributions, and are fully prepared to assume both the rights *and* responsibilities of citizenship. The signs in last year's marches said it so well and so powerfully: *We Are America*.

But this debate is also about who *we* are. As a nation, we are at our best when we overcome "us vs. them" fears to forge unity out of our diversity. As a nation we are at our best when we live up to the ideals of opportunity for all, equal treatment under the law, and basic fairness. As a nation, it is time to solve this problem with a smart and practical comprehensive immigration reform bill that will make our country stronger, safer, and prouder.

The Undersigned Organizations

Attachment: Principles for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

A.M.E.H.N.N. (Asociacion Ministerial Evangelica Hispana de New Haven)

ACCESS

AGA, American Guatemalan Asociacion, Inc.

AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania

American Families United

American Friends Service Committee, American Friends Immigrant Services, Miami, FL

American Friends Service Committee-Kansas City

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)

American Jewish Committee

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Amigos Internacional, Wilmington, NC

Amigos Multicultural Services Center, Eugene, OR

Anti-Defamation League

Anti-Displacement Project / Casa Obrera Worker Center, Springfield, MA

Arab American Institute
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)
Arizona Coalition for Immigrant Rights (ACIR), Phoenix, AZ
Arizona Fair Housing Center
Arizona Interfaith Network
Asbury United Methodist Church, Camden, NJ
Asian American Institute
Asian American Justice Center
Asian Americans United, Philadelphia, PA
Asian Law Alliance, San Jose, CA
Asian Law Caucus, San Francisco, CA
Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California
Asociación Salvadoreña de Alabama
Asociación Social, Cultural y Deportiva Mexicana de Rhode Island
Atlantans Building Leadership for Empowerment (ABLE)
Ayuda Inc., Washington, DC
Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, Minneapolis, MN
Bigbite Productions
Blame Society Productions
Blauvelt Dominican Sisters Immigration Circle of Justice
Bloque de Apoyo a la Unidad Nicaraguense (BAUNIC)
Border Angels/Gente Unida, San Diego, CA
Bowen Gym Multicultural Community Center, Carbondale, IL
Campaign for Working Families, Philadelphia, PA
CASA (Colombian American Service Association), Miami, FL
CASA of Maryland
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Miami
Catholic Charities, Des Moines, IA
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Santa Rosa, CA
CAUSA Oregon
Center for Community Change
The Center for Labor, Community, and Policy Studies, City University of New York
Center for Literacy, Inc.
Center for Social Advocacy, El Cajon, CA
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), Washington, DC
Centro Campesino Inc., Owatonna, MN
Centro de la Familia de Utah
Centro de Orientacion del Inmigrante C.O.D.I., Miami, FL
Centro Hispano of Dane County, Madison, WI
Centro Latino Maine
Centro Legal, Inc., St. Paul, MN
Chamber of Hispanic Affairs, Gainesville, FL
Cherokee/Cobb Immigrant Alliance, Mableton, GA
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center
CITA, Centro Independiente de Trabajadores Agricolas, Albion, NY
Coalicion de Lideres Latinos (Latino Leaders Coalition), Dalton, GA
Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
Coalition of Coalitions Pro Homeless Persons of PR, Inc.
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)
Communities for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Charlotte, NC
Community Alliance of Lane County
Community Alternatives Inc., St. Louis, MO
Compañeros, Durango, CA
The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
Council of Peoples Organization (COPO), Brooklyn, NY
Cristo Rey Church, Lansing, MI
DayWithoutanImmigrant Coalition of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware
Democracia Ahora
Dominican Development Center, Jamaica Plain, MA
Dominican Sisters Ministry of Presence, Garden City, KS
The Drum Major Institute for Public Policy
East Isthmus Neighborhoods Planning Council, Madison, WI
Eastern Panhandle Hispanic Advocacy Coalition, WV
Eirene Immigration Center, Camden, NJ
El Centro de Hospitalidad, Staten Island, NY
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, Albuquerque, NM
El Centro, Inc., Kansas City, KS
El Paracaidista
El Pueblo, Inc.
En Camino, Fostoria, OH
Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE)
Episcopal Migration Ministries
Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
Equality Iowa
Evangelical Covenant Church
EyeOpeners: Youth Against Violence, Staten Island, NY
FaithAction International House, Greensboro, NC
FaithAction Legal Resource Center, Greensboro, NC
The Faith-Justice Institute at Saint Joseph's University
Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami/Haitian Women of Miami, Inc.
Farmworker Association of Florida
Farmworker Justice
Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc., Dade City, FL
The Federation of Irish American Societies of Delaware Valley
First United Methodist of Tuckerton/ FUMC - Hispanic Ministry Casa de Esperanza
Florida Anthropology Student Association
Florida CHAIN

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Miami, FL
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Florida Legal Services, Inc.
The Florida Office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations
For The Children, Inc., Lake Worth, FL
Foundation for Immigrant Resources and Education (FIRE)
Fundacion Salvadorena de Florida
The General Building and Construction Laborers, Local 79, John Delgado Business Manager
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Good Shepherd Sisters in St. Paul
Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice, Connecticut
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Grupo de Apoyo e Integración Hispanoamericano, Lehigh Valley, PA
The Guatemalan Maya Center, Inc., Lake Worth, FL
Haitian American Youth Of Tomorrow
Haitian Citizen United Taskforce, Inc., Lake Worth, FL
Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition, Miami, FL
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
Hispanic American Association
Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania
Hispanic Coalition, Miami, FL
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama
Hispanic Ministry Leadership Team, Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis
Hispanos Unidos De America, Inc
HOLA--Hispanas Organizadas de Lake y Ashtabula, Ohio
Honduras Foundation USA, Coral Gables, FL
Idaho Community Action Network
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Information Center, Jamaica Plain, MA
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota / Oficina Legal
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Portland, ME
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigrant Rights Action Task Force, St. Louis Jobs With Justice
Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa and Nebraska
Indiana Coalition for Justice for Immigrants
Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, San Francisco, CA
Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice of San Diego
International Center of Greater Cincinnati
International Friendship Center/ Centro de Amigos, Highlands, NC
International Immigrants Foundation
International Institute of Metro St. Louis
International Institute of Rhode Island
International Institute of San Francisco
Irish Apostolate USA
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, Philadelphia
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, San Francisco

Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform
Irish Outreach San Diego
JALSA - Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action Boston
Jesuit Conference USA
Jewish Community Action, St. Paul, MN
Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
The Jewish Funds for Justice
The Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates, St. Paul, Minnesota
Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Committee, Eastern American Province of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Kansas East Conference United Methodist Women
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (KCIRR)
Khmer Health Advocates, Inc., West Hartford, CT
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC), Chicago, IL
Korean Resource Center, Los Angeles, CA
La Fuente, A Tri-State Worker and Community Fund
La Red de Pastores y Lideres Latinos del Sur de California
Latin American Coalition, Charlotte, NC
Latin American Immigrant and Refugee Organization, Inc. (LAIRO)
Latin American for Immigrants
Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.
Latino and Latin American Institute of the American Jewish Committee
Latino Committee of St. Odilia Catholic Community, Shoreview, MN
Latino Leadership Alliance of N.J., Middlesex County Chapter
Latinoamerican Commission for the Rights and Freedoms of the Workers and Peoples, CLADEHLT
Latinos Unidos de Alabama (LUDA)
Latinos Unidos Siempre, Salem, OR
Latinos United in Action Center, Inc.
Law Office of J. E. Lee, PLLC
Law Offices of Sean Lewis, PLLC, Nashville, TN
The League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions
League of Rural Voters, Minneapolis, MN
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
League of United Latin American Citizens Council 4605
League of United Latin American Citizens Council 4607
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.
Legal Momentum
Long Island Immigrant Alliance
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
Lutheran Children and Family Service
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
Maine People's Alliance

Make the Road By Walking
Mano en Mano/Hand in Hand, Milbridge, ME
MARCHA (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic/Latino Americans)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition
Medical Mission Sisters, Alliance for Justice, Washington, DC
Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Chapter
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
Michigan Organizing Project
Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network
Minority Development & Empowerment, Inc A.K.A Caribbean Community Center
Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates
Muslim American Society
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Puerto Rican-Hispanic Social Workers (NAPRHSW)
National Capital Immigrant Coalition (NCIC), Washington, DC
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
National Council of La Raza
National Federation of Asian American United Methodists
National Immigrant Solidarity Network (NISN)
National Immigration Forum
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Lawyers Guild, Massachusetts Chapter
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
National Organization for Women
NCOSH (North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Project)
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
New City Parish in Los Angeles
New York Civic Participation Project
New York Hotel & Motel Trades Council
The New York Immigration Coalition
The New York Irish Center
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations
Northwest Workers' Justice Project, Portland, OR
Office of Justice and Peace, Archdiocese of Los Angeles
ONE Lowell, Lowell, MA
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Atlanta, GA
People For the American Way
People United for Economic Justice Building Leadership through Organizing (PUEBLO)
Polish American Association
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office

Professional Staff Congress (PSC-CUNY), New York, NY
Provincial Team of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Eastern American Province
Queens Community House
Reporte Hispano LLC
Resource Center of the Americas, Minneapolis , MN
Reston Interfaith, Reston, VA
Richmond Area Multi-Service, Inc. (RAMS), San Francisco, CA
Rockland Immigration Coalition, New City, NY
Rural Organizing Project
Saint Anne's Roman Catholic and Shrine, Santa Monica , CA
The Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality, Salem, OR
Scalabrini Vocation Office - Missionaries of St. Charles
Seminole United Methodist Church, Seminole, FL
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
SEIU 32BJ
SEIU 775, Washington's Long Term Care Union
SEIU Florida
SEIU Florida Healthcare Union
SEIU Local 150: Milwaukee, WI, Joanne Augsburger, President
SEIU Local 32BJ
SEIU Local 49
SEIU Local 503
SEIU PA State Council
The Shalom Center
Shirlington Employment and Education Center Inc.
Sin Fronteras V.E.P, Ark city, KS
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of Cincinnati
Sojourners/Call to Renewal
Somos America Arizona
Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Santa Fe, NM
South Texas Immigration Council
Southwest California Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Southwest Iowa Latino Resource Center
St. David Mission, Fr. Thomas C. Shortell, FDP
St. Matthew Immigration/Detention Committee
Staten Island Immigrants Council
The Tahirih Justice Center
Teamsters Local Union No. 396
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Iglesia Episcopal Trinidad, Miami, FL
Trinity United Methodist Church, Des Moines, IA
Tu Amigo Community Center, Camden, NJ
UFCW Local 789
UFW Foundation
UN DIA (United Dubuque Immigrant Alliance)

Unidad Hondurena-Honduran Unity, Miami, FL
Unite for Dignity, Inc.
UNITE HERE
UNITE HERE, Airport, Racetrack and Allied Workers Joint Board
UNITE HERE, Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board
UNITE HERE Culinary Union Local 226 Las Vegas
UNITE HERE, Harris Raynor, Southern Regional Director
UNITE HERE Local 1 Chicago
UNITE HERE Local 11
UNITE HERE Local 155
UNITE HERE Local 16
UNITE HERE Local 19
UNITE HERE Local 217, Debra Jordan, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve Mathews, CT Director;
Jenna Karlin, RI Director
UNITE HERE Local 23-25
UNITE HERE Local 2512
UNITE HERE Local 2573
UNITE HERE Local 26
UNITE HERE Local 34
UNITE HERE Local 35
UNITE HERE Local 450
UNITE HERE Local 465c
UNITE HERE Local 483
UNITE HERE Local 49
UNITE HERE Local 73
UNITE HERE Local 920
UNITE HERE Michigan State Council/Local 24
UNITE HERE Mid-Atlantic Regional Joint Board
UNITE HERE Minnesota State Council Local Unions 17, 21, 99, 150
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Farm Workers
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Hispanic Ministries of North Alabama
USAction
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Virginia Justice Center for Farm and Immigrant Workers
Voces de la Frontera - Workers Center, Milwaukee, WI
WeCount!, Homestead, FL
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
Westchester Hispanic Coalition, White Plains , NY
Wis-Kino Filmmaking Collaborative
Women Alliance of Miami-Dade & Broward, Inc.
The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring
YKASEC – Empowering the Korean American Community (YKASEC), New York, NY