

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned Latino organizations, write to urge your strong leadership on the issue of comprehensive immigration reform. In your State of the Union address you highlighted the contributions that immigrants make to the U.S. and emphasized the need for reform. Now it is time to take actions that complement your words.

In December 2005, you came out in strong support of the “Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005” (H.R. 4437) – one of the worst immigration bills to be voted on in decades. As organizations that advocate on behalf of and provide assistance to millions of Latinos, we are astonished that the White House supported such a bill. This proposal would be extremely harmful to Americans while doing absolutely nothing to solve our real immigration problems. The women, men, and children who attend our English classes, work at our schools, care for the sick, or offer training to workers for improving their job skills would all become criminals under this proposal. As social service providers, we would also be criminalized. Furthermore, many provisions of the bill would have harmful effects on all American communities, families, and businesses.

We are perplexed and disappointed by your support of H.R. 4437, which is inconsistent with the very principles of immigration reform that you have put forward.

The Latino voice on the need for a comprehensive immigration reform bill has been constant and loud. Like all Americans we want to be safe from terrorist attacks and have a well-functioning legal immigration system. Moreover, leaders from both political parties have acknowledged the need to address our immigration problems in a comprehensive manner and are working on realistic, rational immigration reform legislation. We hope you will join them and support a comprehensive approach that provides a path to citizenship for those who are undocumented, reduces the backlog in family visas, protects all workers, and provides a safe, legal way for workers to enter the country in the future. As the Senate begins to consider this important legislation, the Administration’s actions – or failure to act – will be pivotal to the outcome.

We urge you to work with Congress to pass real, comprehensive solutions – not mean-spirited proposals that alienate and harm the Latino community.

Sincerely,

Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School, St. Paul, MN
Asociacion Puertorriquenos En Marcha, Philadelphia, PA
Association House of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Aurora Weier Education Center, Milwaukee, WI
AYUDA, Inc., Washington D.C.
CAAssociation for Bilingual Education, Covina, CA
Camarena Health Centers, Madera, CA
Carlos Rosario Career Center, Washington, DC
CASA of Maryland, Inc., Silver Spring, MD
CASA of Oregon, Newberg, OR
Center for Training and Careers/WorkNET, San Jose, CA
Central American Resource Center, Washington, DC
Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, Inc., Florida City, FL
Centro de Amistad, Incorporado, Guadalupe, AZ
Centro de La Comunidad, Baltimore, MD
Centro de la Familia de Utah, Salt Lake City UT
Centro Hispano of Dane County, Madison, WI
Centro Presente, Cambridge, MA
Chicano Awareness Center, Omaha NE
Chicano Federation of San Diego, San Diego, CA
Chicanos Por La Causa, Phoenix and Tuscon, AZ
Community Child Care Council of Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA
Community Housing Resources of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ
Conexión Americas, Nashville, TN
Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Philadelphia, PA
Council of Latino Agencies, Washington, DC
Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corporation, Dalton, GA
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Detroit, MI

Dominican Women's Development Center, New York, NY

DRAW Academy, Houston, TX

East Las Vegas Community Development Corporation, Las Vegas, NV

El Centro de la Raza, Seattle, WA

El Centro, Inc., Kansas City, KS

El Pueblo, Inc., Raleigh, NC

Farmworker Justice Fund, Inc., Phoenix, AZ

Friendly House, Inc., Washington, DC

Gads Hill Center, Chicago, IL

Galaviz Academy, Houston, TX

Hands Across Cultures, Española, NM

Health Centers, Inc., Madera, CA

HELP-New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Hispanic Coalition, Corp, Miami, FL

Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas, Springdale, AR

Housing For Mesa, Inc, Mesa, AZ

Hyde Square Task Force, Jamaica Plain, MA

Information Referred Resource Assistance Inc., Edinburg, TX

La Casa Heath Network, Little Rock, AR

La Familia Counseling Service, Hayward, CA

La Fuerza Unida, Inc., Glen Cove, NY

Latin American Coalition, Charlotte, NC

Latin American Community Center, Wilmington, DE

Latino Community Development Agency, Oklahoma City, OK

Latino Leadership, Inc., Orlando, FL

Latinos United, Chicago, IL

Latinos United of Carroll County, Inc., Carrollton, GA

Little Village Community Development Corporation, Chicago, IL

Los Angeles Leadership Academy, Los Angeles, CA

Luz Social Services, Inc., Tucson, AZ

MAAC Project, National City, CA

Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care, Washington, DC

Mexican American Commission, Lincoln, NE

Montebello Housing Development Corporation, Montebello, CA

Mujeres Latinas en Acción, Chicago, IL

NAF Multicultural Human Development Corporation, North Platte, NE

National Association of Latino Independent Producers, New York, NY

Near Northside Partners Council, Inc., Fort Worth, TX

Nevada Association of Latin Americans, Inc., Las Vegas, NV

North Fork Spanish Apostolate, Riverhead, NY

Parent Institute for Quality Education, San Diego, CA

Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Immokalee, FL

Rio Grande Substance Abuse Treatment Centers, Inc., Embudo, NM

San Diego County SER Jobs for Progress, Inc., Oceanside, CA

SC Hispanic Outreach/ Acercamiento Hispano de Carolina del Sur, Columbia, SC

Sea Mar Community Health Centers, Seattle, WA

SER Corporation, Wichita, KS

Servicios de la Raza, Inc., Denver, CO

Siete del Norte CDC, Embudo, NM

Tejano Center for Community Concerns, Inc., Houston, TX

Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, Nashville, TN

Texas Migrant Council, Inc., New York, NY

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Chicago, IL

The Resurrection Project, Fort Wayne, IN

United Hispanic-Americans, Inc. Milwaukee, WI

United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc. Los Angeles, CA

Watts/Century Latino Organization, Donna, TX

