

GENERAL TALKING POINTS: MAY 17 COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM LOBBY DAY

Immigration Reform Must Be Comprehensive

We are coming together in Washington, DC and in our home states and districts to call on Congress to respond to the growing movement for comprehensive immigration reform. We support sensible immigration reform that:

1. Creates an earned path to citizenship for the nation's undocumented immigrants;
2. Reunifies close family members in a timely manner;
3. Restores and respects civil rights and due process protections for immigrants; and
4. Protects the wages and working conditions of immigrant and native-born workers.

It is important that the Senate move forward on comprehensive reform, but it is more important that the Senate get it right.

If Congress cannot enact legislation this year that is both **comprehensive and workable**, then it would be better for Congress to pass no bill at all. Enforcement-only measures or half-baked reforms have been tried in the past and failed. The Hagel-Martinez compromise includes the right *architecture* for real immigration reform and it is a great step forward towards getting to a comprehensive solution. But the compromise falls short in a few key aspects: the legalization provisions must be more inclusive since as it stands right now it leaves millions out and several of the enforcement provisions are the same as in the Sensenbrenner bill.

We urge lawmakers to continue working together in a bipartisan way to pass real immigration reform this year.

Last week, Majority Leader Bill Frist and Minority Leader Harry Reid showed bipartisan cooperation by coming to agreement on the make-up of a Conference Committee that would be able to protect a comprehensive Senate bill during negotiations with the House of Representatives. This week, opponents of Frist and Reid are lining up amendments to try to kill the bill's most important provisions. We urge Leaders Frist and Reid, and senators from both parties to work together to pass a good bill that **works** and that the Senate can be proud of.

We need real solutions that are consistent with American values.

As President Bush told the nation on Monday night, we are seeking a "rational middle ground" approach to fixing our immigration system, securing our borders, and living up to this nation's core values that embrace immigrants and the talents and ambitions they bring. The millions of immigrants and their allies marching in the streets, as well as the general public, want their leaders to deliver a real and lasting solution to immigration. They want a solution that rewards work, respects rights, reunites families, protects workers, grows the economy, restores the rule of law, and leads to citizenship. We will continue to fight for legislation that serves these goals.

Immigrants want to be part of America

Immigrants don't want to be political footballs – they want results. They want to be American and be able to work without fear; to reunite with family members separated by arbitrary immigration quotas; and want to see hard working individuals like themselves be able to enter the U.S. legally, instead of crossing the desert and risking their lives.