



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Bush Administration Falls Short in Judiciary Hearing**

**Boston, MA** – The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition is dismayed by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff’s testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding the Bush Administration’s approach to immigration reform.

At the hearing, Chertoff focused mostly on a temporary worker program and border enforcement, and failed to represent any innovative thinking about how to fix our broken immigration system.

“The Bush Administration missed a significant opportunity to unveil a truly comprehensive immigration reform proposal,” said Ali Noorani, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. “A temporary worker program that requires immigrants to return to their countries is unrealistic, short-sighted, expensive and will prove to create an even worse environment for immigrants and their families than our current broken immigration system.”

Noorani continued, “In order to better serve immigrant and refugee families across the country, President Bush should lend his support to the *Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act* filed by Senators McCain and Kennedy. This bi-partisan proposal reforms our immigration system to serve families, employers and our nation’s security in a realistic, rational manner.”

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*MIRA works to advocate for the rights and opportunities of immigrants and refugees. In partnership with its members, MIRA advances this mission through education, training, leadership development, organizing, policy analysis and advocacy.*