



## The Workmen`s Circle/Arbeter Ring FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WORKMEN’S CIRCLE/ARBETER RING LAUDS IMMIGRATION BILL APPROVED BY SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

The Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring praised the Senate Judiciary Committee for approving last night a sweeping immigration reform bill that is “comprehensive, compassionate and realistic.” The national Jewish organization also called on Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) to bring the legislation to vote on the floor of the Senate.

The legislation that was approved contained several provisions that The Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring has long called for: a path for legal status and citizenship for current undocumented immigrants, allowing children of undocumented immigrants who meet certain standards to attend state-funded colleges and universities at resident tuition levels, a temporary guest-worker program that would encourage future immigrant workers to enter the United States legally and additional funding for border security. The Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring was also pleased that the Judiciary Committee rejected several severely punitive measures that were included in legislation passed by the House of Representatives in December, such as the criminalization of people who overstay their visas and the subsection of those who assist undocumented immigrants to criminal prosecution.

“The legislation proposed by the Senate Judiciary Committee realistically addresses our failed and broken immigration system,” according to Robert Kestenbaum, Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring Executive Director. “It recognizes that the vast majority of the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States are here to provide for the families and participate in the American dream, much as our parents and grandparents did. *Yasher koach* (“appreciation for a job well done”) to Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his work on the bill, which had bi-partisan support.”

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**Today’s Workmen’s Circle/Arbeter Ring is a national Jewish organization established by Eastern European immigrants at the turn of the twentieth century. It is dedicated to Jewish Community, Culture and Social Justice.**