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## **AMERICA'S VOTERS JOIN THE GAMALIEL FOUNDATION IN CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

CHICAGO, Illinois. - All across the country GAMALIEL organizations let their elected officials know that Immigration is a defining feature of America's history and of America's future. Unfortunately, America's current immigration system is broken. Instead of legal channels and orderly, screened entry, the broken immigration system has led to a ballooning undocumented immigrant population, separation of family members, and exploitation of undocumented workers. The American people are frustrated with their leaders' narrow focus on enforcement of this broken system, and we hunger for a solution that will work.

GAMALIEL organizations in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Missouri, Virginia, California, and all across our country voted in droves to let our elected officials know that the recipe for successful reform must go beyond rhetoric and address our reality. For reform to work it must include the following key elements: 1) deal effectively with undocumented immigrants working and living in the United States; 2) provide for the future flow of workers and close family members; 3) devise tailored, targeted, effective enforcement of more realistic policies; and 4) support the successful integration of newcomers in the communities where they settle. Anything less will not and cannot work and it is not true reform.

**Immigration reforms that do not bring the 11 million undocumented immigrants already living among us out of the shadows and onto a path to legality is not realistic or workable.**

While it is true that the Senate and the House are poised to act on Comprehensive Immigration Reform, President Bush needs to provide leadership to his fellow Republicans by promoting and supporting a workable and realistic solution consistent with our traditions and values as a nation of immigrants *and* a nation of laws. We hope that this new Senate and new House will yield real answers that push back on the simplistic and politically expedient measures passed recently by the House.

The Gamaliel Foundation has 55 affiliated organizations in 20 states and in three provinces of South Africa. GAMALIEL represents more than one million clergy and laypeople of many faiths. Gamaliel affiliated organizations are faith-based, grassroots, institutionally based, leadership driven, and direct action organizations.