

Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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Nationwide Campaign for Comprehensive Immigration Reform Erupts in Grassroots Activities after Bipartisan STRIVE Act Introduced

Events Planned in More than a Dozen Cities and Growing

Washington, DC – Today, the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR) announced events in more than a dozen cities in ten states in-reaction to bipartisan legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. Representative Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and Representative Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced bipartisan comprehensive legislation on Thursday that will replace an immigration system that is unregulated, chaotic, and abusive with one that is secure, controlled and fair. CCIR is a nationwide campaign committing to enacting workable immigration reform legislation this year.

“The introduction of the bipartisan STRIVE Act is an important first step. It is energizing supporters of comprehensive immigration reform across the country. Immigrant workers and families are desperate for real reform. So are decent employers who want a legal workforce and American workers who want a level playing field. And the public is tired of partisan posturing and finger pointing. In the next few days, CCIR and our allies around the country are holding events in more than a dozen cities demanding Congress take action on comprehensive immigration reform. Though we will continue to study the details of this complex legislation, these activities highlight our determination to get it done this year and to get it done right,” said Clarissa Martinez, CCIR’s Campaign Manager in Washington, D.C.

Virtually every public opinion poll shows that Americans are impatient for Federal action to fix the immigration system once and for all. A Gallup/USA Today poll released just last week shows that when confronted with a series of policy choices, by a margin of 59% - 24% Americans prefer a comprehensive solution with an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

“It will take leaders in both parties to make comprehensive immigration reform work, and Reps. Gutierrez and Flake are showing the way forward. CCIR will pressure both parties and both chambers of Congress to follow their lead. If successful, America will finally have an immigration system that serves our national interests through increased security, an improved economy, and a renewal of the values that define our nation,” Martinez concluded.

Today and through the early part of next week, local events welcoming the introduction of the STRIVE Act are being held in Arizona (Tucson and Phoenix), California (Los Angeles), Illinois (Chicago), Kansas (Kansas City), Massachusetts (Boston), Michigan (Detroit), Minnesota

(Minneapolis), Missouri (Jefferson City), New York (Albany and New York City), and Texas (El Paso and McAllen).

For more detailed information on state and local events call Cara Morris Stern at 202-271-2272.

The CCIR campaign brings together faith-based and labor organizations, state, local, and national advocates, and immigrant families and workers themselves to remind elected representatives in Washington that passing comprehensive immigration reform this year is a priority, no matter what state or congressional district they represent.

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