



Press Release

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Contacts:

Marisol Jiménez McGee (919) 824-7910

Zulayka Santiago (919) 835-1525

EL PUEBLO PRAISES MOVEMENT FORWARD ON COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

New Bipartisan STRIVE Act Jumpstarts Action in Congress

Raleigh, North Carolina – Today, El Pueblo praised action in Congress on comprehensive immigration reform. 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.

Though El Pueblo will be studying the details of this specific legislation, it appears the Gutierrez-Flake bill, known as the STRIVE Act (Security Through Regularized Immigration and Vibrant Economy) includes the principles and elements we believe are needed to fix our broken immigration system. These principles include providing a path to earned citizenship, protecting immigrant and American workers alike, reuniting families, respecting due process, and helping newcomers become new Americans while helping the communities in which they settle.

“We welcome the STRIVE Act because it demonstrates that there is real, bipartisan movement in Congress to address the urgent need for comprehensive immigration reform.” said Marisol Jiménez McGee, Advocacy Director of El Pueblo. “We will be studying the details of the proposal in the coming days because the details matter. We want comprehensive immigration reform this year, but not just any bill that calls itself comprehensive will do. It must be *workable* and fit within our principles if it is to be the solution we as an organization can fully support,” continued Jiménez McGee.

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

El Pueblo is working in coordination with the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR), a national campaign to get legislation enacted this year. “This is an unprecedented campaign bringing together faith-based and labor organizations, state, local, and national advocates, and immigrant families and workers themselves to remind our elected representatives in Washington that passing comprehensive immigration reform this year is a priority, no matter what state or congressional district they represent,” said Clarissa Martinez, CCIR’s campaign manager in Washington.

“Immigrants and American citizens, alike, are calling on Congress to put a stop to the chaos and fix our immigration system. El Pueblo is committed to pressuring our Congressional Members to make this happen by enacting humane and comprehensive immigration reform this year,” concluded Jiménez McGee.

El Pueblo is a nonprofit, statewide advocacy and public policy organization dedicated to strengthening the Latino community.

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