

# Congressional Hispanic Caucus

United States Congress

Washington, DC 20515

CHAIRWOMAN

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

December 10, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We write today to ask you to join the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in cosponsoring Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity (CIR ASAP), a bill which we will unveil next week on Tuesday, December 15, 2009. We are a proud nation of immigrants from around the globe, and with CIR ASAP, we will be able to once again be proud of our immigration laws that reflect the best of our nation's values by prioritizing family unity, civil rights, economic opportunity and diversity.

With Comprehensive Immigration Reform ASAP we will deter illegal immigration, deploy modern and effective border security measures, ensure effective immigration enforcement and promote legal immigration that will protect and fortify our nation's economic and national security. U.S. citizens across America will no longer fear the deportation of family members and loved ones, workers will join the mainstream economy, and employers will have confidence that they are hiring only workers who are authorized to work. The bill will also ensure that no American loses a job to an exploitable foreign worker, because we will regulate the recruitment of workers from abroad, strengthen worker protections and stiffen penalties for violations. We will establish an employment verification regime that ends unauthorized employment and the exploitation of workers by unscrupulous employers. Additionally, we will put an end to the abusive practices of those who seek to profit off of the backs of a workforce without a voice.

In these difficult economic times we must ensure that everyone contributes toward the recovery and prosperity of our nation. To this end, it is imperative that all individuals and employers pay their fair share in taxes. In addition, we must protect the growth and vitality of companies that are playing by the rules, putting Americans to work and furthering our economic recovery.

We believe that it is essential that we require all undocumented immigrants to register with the government, submit to a criminal background check, pay any back taxes and pay a penalty to begin the process of earning permanent residency and, one day, citizenship. Immigration laws that respect the family unit, enhance border and community security, protect the civil rights of all individuals, create and support economic opportunity and embrace diversity will make us a stronger and prouder nation.

CIR ASAP is a bill you and other stalwart advocates of comprehensive immigration reform can be proud to support and bring back home to you constituents for the holidays. To join us at the unveiling of the bill or to add yourself as an original cosponsor, please contact Nicole Dinis in Congressman Gutierrez's office at 202-225-8203. We hope you will join us in introducing the Comprehensive Immigration Reform ASAP Act of 2009.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Luis V. Gutierrez  
Chair  
CHC Immigration Taskforce