



Somos Un Pueblo Unido

1804 Espinacitas St. Santa Fe, NM 87505

www.somosunpueblounido.org

REFORM IMMIGRATION

FOR America

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Contact: Marcela Díaz (505) 670-9301

Immigrant Groups and Community Leaders Renew Call for Immigration Reform at State's Capitol

NEW MEXICO IMMIGRANT LOBBY DAY PART OF MAJOR NATIONWIDE MOBILIZATION BY THE "REFORM IMMIGRATION FOR AMERICA" CAMPAIGN

Santa Fe, New Mexico— Today, 150 immigrant students, workers and families traveled to Santa Fe to renew their call for comprehensive immigration reform and to encourage state legislators to support a pro-reform Joint Senate Memorial introduced by Senator Mary Jane García (D-Doña Ana County). The Memorial calls on the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to help pass legislation this year that would create a path to legalization for immigrant families, protect workers and help with economic recovery, create millions of new taxpayers, keep families together, and protect the due process rights of all.

"We urgently need to revisit our outdated laws which tear mixed status families apart, separating parents from children," said Senator García at a press conference and rally in the Capitol rotunda. "By joining together like this, we send a message that we are not faceless and invisible, but a force to contend with."

Today's "Immigrant Lobby Day" sponsored by Somos Un Pueblo Unido, New Mexico's statewide immigrants' rights organization, occurred on the heels of major national developments for the immigration reform movement. Last week, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the Obama administration to make immigration reform a priority to enhance national security and improve the struggling economy. And a major economic report from the Center for American Progress was released last week demonstrating that even during a recession, a path to legalization for immigrants would add \$1.5 trillion to the U.S. economy, raise the wage floor of all U.S. workers, and generate up to \$5.4 billion in new tax revenues.

To read the American Progress report on the economic benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform click here:
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/01/raising_the_floor.html

"It's not a question of whether Congress should pass immigration reform, but when. We can't afford more delay," remarked Christine Trujillo, President of the New Mexico Federation of Labor AFL-CIO. "Too many workers and their families are struggling through the recession, and immigration reform can help improve wages for both immigrant and non immigrant workers and speed up economic recovery. Immigration Reform is a worker's issue, and it's time for our elected leaders to act."

"We're here to let our elected leaders know how important immigration reform is. Our broken system is a bi-partisan problem that requires real leadership from our elected officials," said Roberto Sanchez, a Board Member of *Somos Un Pueblo Unido*. "We're here to show our state that we want our representatives to put aside the partisan game playing and deliver comprehensive immigration reform."

"As local elected officials, we know how important it is to come up with practical solutions to make our cities work effectively," said Mayor of Espanola Joseph Maestas, who sponsored a pro immigration reform resolution that the Municipal League passed in September, 2009. "Passing comprehensive immigration reform is the right thing to do not only to end fear in our communities, but also to support our local and national economy."

"The New Mexico Conference of Churches takes seriously our responsibility to hold public policy to the highest moral and ethical standards," said Reverend Holly Beaumont, Legislative Advocate for the Conference at the rally. "The NMCC is committed to just and compassionate immigration reform. We repudiate those who blame immigrants for everything from undermining our national security, exploding health costs to rising unemployment. Our nation is facing serious problems. Scapegoating immigrants is wrong, dangerous and a waste of precious time. This Memorial is an opportunity for our state legislature to promote responsible reform that reflects and celebrates our legacy as a nation built by immigrants. We want New Mexico to be a guiding force in the national debate."

The rally, drawing community leaders and immigrants from nine different communities in New Mexico, was part of a nationwide mobilization of Americans for comprehensive immigration reform. At more than 100 major pro-reform events across the country, Americans this week stood up, marched, held prayer vigils, convened press conferences, targeted members of Congress, conducted town halls, or held rallies to demonstrate the strength of the enormous immigration reform movement and to call on Congress to act. The Reform Immigration For America Campaign has assembled an enormous and unprecedented bi-partisan coalition of people of faith, business, labor, civil rights, and elected officials. More than 700 organizations have joined in nearly every state to make 2010 the year that Congress finally delivers comprehensive immigration reform.

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Somos un Pueblo Unido is a statewide membership based immigrants' rights organization that has worked to pass local and state policies benefiting workers and their families in New Mexico.

For media inquiries to the Reform Immigration FOR America's National Press Office, please contact: Shuya Ohno, cell (202) 309-5645, shu@reformimmigrationforamerica.org

IMMIGRATION REFORM RALLY SPEAKERS:

Invocation by: Deacon Anthony Trujillo, Coordinator for Hispanic Youth Ministries of the Archdioceses of Santa Fe

Speaker of the House Ben Lujan (D-Santa Fe)

Senator Mary Jane Garcia (D-Doña Ana County)

Senator Cynthia Nava (D-Dña Ana County)

Representative Miguel Garcia (D-Bernalillo)

Reverend Allen Sanchez, Director of New Mexico Catholic Conference of Bishops

Reverend Holly Beaumont, New Mexico Conference of Churches

Christine Trujillo, New Mexico Federation of Labor-AFL-CIO

Espanola Mayor Joseph Maestas, New Mexico Municipal League of Local Elected Officials

Santa Fe Mayor David Coss

Dr. Wanda Ross Padilla, Vice President of NAACP

Pablo Martínez, President of New Mexico LULAC

Reena Szczepanski, Drug Policy Alliance

Representative Antonio Maestas (D-Bernalillo)