

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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Community Organizations Energized by President Obama's Call for Immigration Reform this Year

Statement by Somos un Pueblo Unido and Allies

SANTA FE-Today's news on the front page of the New York Times that President Obama will move on immigration reform this year has community organizations across the country ramping up to achieve a just and humane immigration solution. Story here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/09/us/politics/09immig.html?hp>

"I am excited and heartened by President Obama's commitment to comprehensive immigration reform. As mayor of a city which struggles with the reality of our failed federal immigration policies, I will help President Obama in any way I can," Santa Fe Mayor David Coss said. "Some argue that it may be disastrous for the president to take on immigration policy during this economic crisis, but for communities like Santa Fe, it is disastrous if we don't take it on. This is an economic issue. It's a human rights issue. Families and communities are being divided. Santa Fe needs immigration reform now."

"AFT and the AFL-CIO fully support President Obama's call for immigration reform. Climbing our way out of this economic crisis means forward thinking policies that include fixing a broken immigration system that has created a servant class in our midst. America's economy cannot recover if we allow 12 million immigrants to continue to live and work in the margins of our society," Christine Trujillo said. Trujillo is the President of the American Federation of Teachers New Mexico (AFT-NM) and the New Mexico Federation of Labor AFL-CIO.

"We've seen first hand the pain of immigrant families ripped apart by unjust raids. Our communities and our nation have suffered long enough," Marcela Díaz, Executive Director of Somos un Pueblo Unido.

Added that obstructionist will throw everything at this Administration's attempts to create a society which recognizes the inherent value and worth in us all.

"For too long we have shrunk in the face of key decisions that must be made to get our country back on track," Díaz said.

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Somos un Pueblo Unido is a member of the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) is a coalition of grassroots community organizations nationwide, including statewide immigrant rights coalitions, organizing networks, faith-based groups, and low-income and other networks organized around ethnicity or national origin, working on behalf of comprehensive immigration reform and immigrant rights. FIRM is convened by the Center for Community Change.