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Immigration Enforcement Is Necessary, But Only Part of the Answer

(Washington, July 1) – The Department of Homeland Security launched a major crackdown today on employers who hire immigrants, notifying 652 businesses nationwide that it will audit the Form I-9 hiring records they fill out for every employee. Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA, a national federation of pro-immigration employers, issued the following statement:

"No one has more of a stake than employers in strengthening the rule of law in the workplace. Most businesses that hire immigrants go to great lengths and expense to insure that their workforce is authorized. And no one has more of a stake in enforcement that levels the playing field by cracking down on bad-actor employers who deliberately hire illegal immigrants.

"But enforcement alone has not and will not work to control immigration. We need reform that combines more effective enforcement with a way for the workers we need to sustain the economy to enter the country legally.

"Even in a recession, America still needs foreign workers at both the top and bottom of the economy. By doing jobs US workers don't do, they keep businesses open and American employed. And employers need immigration reform that ensures their access to a legal, reliable foreign workforce. The best antidote to illegal immigration is a legal immigration system that works."

**ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby is available for interview
and can be reached directly at 973-744-6117**

ImmigrationWorks USA is a national business federation advocating immigration policy that works for employers, workers and citizens. It links 25 state-based coalitions of employers and trade groups from every sector that relies on immigrant workers. IW assists these groups with intelligence, messaging and grassroots recruitment as they fight for better immigration law, both in their states and in Washington. IW's goal: to mobilize a national business grassroots constituency – the constituency that was missing during the 2006 and 2007 debates over immigration reform. IW receives support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, American Farm Bureau, the American Hotel and Lodging Association, the National Association of Home Builders, the US Travel Association and other leading trade groups. Its board of directors includes former U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, former AZ Rep. Jim Kolbe and Bill Marriott, chairman and CEO of Marriott International, among others.

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