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## **CIR ASAP – Only Part of the Fix That’s Needed**

*(Washington, December 16) – Today the Congressional Hispanic Caucus introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America’s Security and Prosperity (CIR ASAP) Act of 2009. ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby issued the following statement.*

No one has more of a stake in fixing the nation’s broken immigration system than employers who rely on immigrant workers.

But CIR ASAP is only part of the fix that’s needed. It provides no answer for one of the three essential questions at the heart of immigration reform: how to provide a legal supply of the foreign labor we’ll need in the future to help the economy recover and grow. And some provisions, including the proposed changes to existing worker-visa programs, could hinder U.S. economic growth.

The economic downturn has done nothing to change the fundamental demographic and educational trends that make foreign workers an essential ingredient of American prosperity. Even with today’s unacceptably high unemployment rates, employers in many sectors – agriculture, high-tech, the seasonal economy – continue to need immigrants to keep their businesses open and keep Americans on the job. And as the economy improves, that need will only grow – immigrant workers will play an essential role in the nation’s economic recovery.

IW supports a comprehensive reform package that secures the borders, reinforces the rule of law in the workplace, protects U.S. workers and provides a path to earned legalization for the millions of unauthorized foreigners already living in the United States.

But for a reform bill to work – for employers or for the U.S. economy – it must also provide a way for the workers we’ll need to grow the economy in the future to enter the country legally.

ImmigrationWorks looks forward to working with Congress and the president to pass comprehensive immigration reform. But it must be reform that fixes the immigration system so that it works for everyone – employers, immigrants, American workers and the U.S. economy.

**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 strategic coordination, messaging and grassroots recruitment as they fight for better immigration law in their states and Washington. IW’s goal: to mobilize a national business constituency in favor of immigration reform. The organization works closely with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, the American Hotel and Lodging Association, the National Association of Home Builders, the U.S. Travel Association, American Farm Bureau 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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