

*Press Release
December 16, 2009*

Business Group Disappointed by Immigration Proposal, Looking Forward to Congressional Debate on Reform

Today the Congressional Hispanic Caucus introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity (CIR ASAP) Act of 2009. The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition issued the following statement.

The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition appreciates any effort to advance the debate about our broken immigration system and remind Americans of the urgent need for comprehensive immigration reform.

EWIC 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 and working in the United States.

But for employers who depend on immigrant workers, the most important element of reform is a program to supply the U.S. economy with the workers it needs to recover from the downturn and grow in years ahead, replacing the current unlawful influx with a legal workforce.

We believe this goal can best be met by a visa program that gives employers, not the government, the primary say in which workers they need to man their businesses and gives the U.S. labor market, not Congress or a commission, the primary say in how many workers enter the country annually in a legal program. U.S. employers cannot support a bill that contains unworkable or onerous requirements for business owners, or one that fails to create a usable program for needed workers to enter the country legally.

EWIC looks forward to working with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and others in Congress to pass a balanced, bipartisan reform package that meets the needs of employers, immigrants, U.S. workers and the U.S. economy.

The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition EWIC (www.ewic.org) is a broad-based coalition of national businesses and trade associations from across industries concerned with the shortage of semi-skilled and unskilled essential workers. EWIC supports policies that facilitate the employment of essential workers by U.S. companies that are unable to find American workers.

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