



MEDIA AVAILABILITY
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CONTACT
Angelena Bradfield – 202 506-4541
abradfield@immigrationworksusa.org

A MOMENTOUS DECISION FOR THE PRESIDENT

(Wednesday, June 30) - President Barack Obama is scheduled to give a major address tomorrow on comprehensive immigration reform. ImmigrationWorks president Tamar Jacoby made the following comments in anticipation of the speech.

The president faces a momentous decision tomorrow. He could go on playing politics with immigration, catering to his base, blaming Republicans for Congress' failure to act and polarizing the debate further – a disastrous wrong turn. Or he could stand back from the fray and play honest broker, taking the all important first steps to bridge the gap between Americans who support Arizona's tough new enforcement measure, SB 1070, and those who oppose it.

The debate about the Arizona law is congealing into bitter stalemate. Opponents believe that anyone who supports the law is condoning bigotry and human rights abuses. But supporters too feel they're defending an absolute. And the result is an all-or-nothing, good-vs.-evil debate that allows no room for conversation, let alone compromise on a comprehensive overhaul. The challenge for President Obama: to pull the nation back from this brink by giving a speech that speaks to both sides.

Can he do it? Will he do it? Or will he just sue Arizona, injecting immigration into midterm campaigns from coast to coast and alienating key lawmakers, from Arizona and elsewhere, without whose help there can be no hope of passing comprehensive reform on Obama's watch?

**IW USA president Tamar Jacoby can be reached for comment at
202 506-4541.**

ImmigrationWorks USA is a national federation of small business owners advocating immigration reform. The organization links 25 state-based, pro-immigration business coalitions: employers and trade associations from Florida to Oregon and from every sector of the economy 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 in Washington. The organization works closely with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, the National Association of Home Builders, the U.S. Travel Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation 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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