



STATEMENT
August 27, 2012

CONTACT Steven Weiss
sweiss@immigrationworksusa.org
(202) 480-2076

CALIFORNIA RESIDENT WORKER BILL

On Friday, California Democratic Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez introduced a bill that could eventually grant work permits to unauthorized immigrants currently working in California in the agriculture and service sectors. Mindful of the national debate about who should make immigration law, Washington or the states, the California Agriculture and Service Worker Act (AB 916 or CASA) would establish a working group comprised of state and federal officials to develop a model for a state-run "deferred action resident worker program." A bipartisan coalition of California lawmakers joined Assemblyman Perez in introducing the legislation. ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby made the following statement.

ImmigrationWorks is excited by the latest development in California. Ultimately, as the Supreme Court and others have noted, the federal government is responsible for making and enforcing immigration law. But Congress has yet to step up to the plate to fix the broken immigration system, and in the meantime, the Supreme Court has endorsed initiatives that cooperate with Washington and run parallel to federal policy. The new California proposal aims to do just that and is a welcome contribution to the national immigration debate.

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

ImmigrationWorks USA is a national federation of employers working to advance better immigration law. The network links major corporations, national trade associations and 25 state-based coalitions of small to medium-sized business owners concerned that the broken immigration system is holding back the growth of the U.S. economy. Their shared aim: legislation that brings America's annual legal intake of foreign workers more realistically into line with the country's labor needs.