



STATEMENT
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HOUSE E-VERIFY BILL

WASHINGTON – Last week, House Judiciary Committee chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) joined Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) in introducing the Legal Workforce Act, requiring that all U.S. employers use the federal E-Verify system to validate the work authorization of new employees. ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby made the following statement.

ImmigrationWorks USA commends Chairman Goodlatte and Rep. Smith on the introduction of the Legal Workforce Act, mandating that all employers enroll in E-Verify.

No one has more of a stake than employers in restoring the rule of law in the workplace. The overwhelming majority want to be on the right side of the law – it's their obligation as citizens, and it makes good business sense.

The Legal Workforce Act gives employers the tools they need to verify the work authorization of new employees. It endeavors to shield those who use the system in good faith from civil and criminal liability. It replaces an unworkable patchwork of state laws with a single national policy. And it levels the playing field for law-abiding business owners, protecting them from unscrupulous competitors.

Effective worksite enforcement is a critical pillar of any immigration reform, and the thoughtful provisions of the Legal Workforce Act can point the way for lawmakers in both chambers working to craft a broader overhaul.

While we would like to see stronger measures to prevent identify theft, including provisions that make use of self-verification, ImmigrationWorks looks forward to working with Chairman Goodlatte to improve the Legal Workforce Act as it moves forward through the legislative process.

We also look forward to working with him and others in Congress to pass immigration reform that restores the rule of law, provides a path to legal status for unauthorized immigrants and fixes the legal immigration system so it works for the future, providing the legal labor force many employers need to keep their businesses running and contributing to the economy.

ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby can be reached for comment at 202 480-2076.

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 nation's economic growth. Their shared aim: legislation that brings America's annual legal intake of foreign workers more realistically into line with the country's labor needs.