



MEDIA AVAILABILITY
March 11, 2010

CONTACT
Nicole Littell – 202 506-4541
nlittell@immigrationworksusa.org

Fixing immigration so it works for everyone

(Washington, March 11) – Senators Charles Schumer and Lindsey Graham met with President Obama in the White House today to chart a course forward on comprehensive immigration reform. ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby issued the following statement.

Employers who rely on immigrant workers are thrilled to see immigration reform gaining momentum – pleased to see President Obama using his political capital to advance an overhaul and grateful to reform champions Sens. Charles Schumer and Lindsey Graham for their courage and hard work in developing a bill.

No one has more of a stake in fixing the broken system than small business owners. Their need for immigrant workers rises and falls with the economy. But some employers need immigrant workers even now to keep their businesses open and keep Americans on the job. And the country will need immigrant workers even more urgently as the economy recovers and businesses start to grow again.

What employers hope to see in the days and weeks ahead: the details of a proposal that provides a way for the workers America will need in the future to enter the country *legally*.

That's the piece of the puzzle that was missing from the partisan bill introduced in the House last year. It's the piece Sens. Schumer and Graham haven't yet worked out. It's the piece business and labor are negotiating and need to agree upon for the sake of recovery. And once it's fleshed out, it will be one the parts of a bill most attractive to potential Republican supporters.

It won't help anyone who wants to a workable immigration system to politicize the issue or start a partisan blame game. We need to continue working together until we get it right, fixing the system so that it works for everyone – employers, immigrants, American workers and the U.S. economy.

IW USA president Tamar Jacoby can be reached to comment on today's meeting at 202-506-4541

ImmigrationWorks USA is a national business federation advocating immigration policy that works for employers, workers and citizens. The organization 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 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.

###