

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jorge-Mario Cabrera (jmcabrera@chirla.org)

April 29, 2010

(562) 243-5559 (mobile) or (213) 353-1789 direct

Let There Now Be A Bill

Conceptual framework marks a significant step forward to tackle immigration reform in 2010

Los Angeles – This week Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) presented a conceptual proposal for immigration reform that paves the way for the introduction of legislation in the Senate. The following are statements by Angelica Salas, Executive Director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), a regional human and immigrant rights not-for-profit community-based organization based in Los Angeles.

“We applaud Senators Reid, Schumer, and Menendez for taking leadership on the issue of immigration reform. Their presentation of a legislative blueprint demonstrates many in Congress are hungry to resolve one of America’s toughest challenges and takes us a step closer towards a sensible, realistic and humane immigration system

Although this conceptual proposal is not yet a bill, we welcome the framework’s commitment to a robust legalization program that provides a path to citizenship for immigrants who are present in the U.S. prior to the bill’s introduction. Integrating the DREAM Act in this proposal would enable undocumented youth to have a future in this country, and addressing the family backlogs would reunite many families that have been separated for too long. The framework also addresses protections for workers against exploitation, a reform of the detention system, enhanced visa programs that facilitate legal immigration and the development of broad-based and nationally supported immigrant integration programs.

We remain very concerned with the amount of enforcement and border security language but expect to have the opportunity to work with Republicans and Democrats to ensure the final bill includes real solutions geared towards the economic, civilian and human elements of national safety and security.

CHIRLA is eager and ready to work with Congress and the White House to ensure an actual bill is promptly introduced in the Senate and voted upon.

As the nation watches in horror Arizona’s passage of SB1070, we urge our nation’s leaders

to offer an alternative to the divisiveness and hysteria the law has provoked. On May 1 we will be engaging with thousands and thousands in the streets of more than 70 American cities to call on Congress and the President to take hold of this historic moment to unite and heal our nation and prepare it for the future by introducing and voting for a comprehensive immigration reform bill. ”

###