



CAAELII's Statement on the Immigration Reform Deal Proposal Divides Families and Workers

Chicago, IL – Over the last decade the Coalition of African, Asian, Arab, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAELII) has championed the fight for immigrant rights by creating a space for multicultural dialogue, raising awareness, and promoting civic engagement throughout our community. We have worked with a number of elected officials over the years, and today we are calling upon them once again to support our collective efforts.

Of major concern for members of CAAELII today is the new Senate Proposal announced on May 17, 2007. At stake is the preservation of family unity, workers rights, and our globally coveted democratic society. Although we strongly support the idea of a bi-partisan bill to reform our broken immigration system, we urge our legislators not to rush into passing a bill that will further divide this nation. CAAELII would support a proposal that:

- Focuses on family-based migration as the cornerstone of immigration to the U.S.
- Preserves security for all and eliminates triggers.
- Makes the process of legalizing undocumented workers affordable and creates an attainable pathway to citizenship.
- Meets our labor needs while protecting workers rights.
- Preserves and respects the due process and civil rights of immigrants.
- Respects and protects the human and civil rights of U.S. southern border communities.
- Acknowledges the impact of the educational disparity throughout our diverse immigrant community, and provides an impartial solution to the legalization process.
- Respects and protects the financial contributions and the future of tax-paying immigrant workers and their families.
- Provides transparency in the Department of Homeland Security decisions on individual legalization cases and in the agency's implementation of the legalization program.

As immigrants and strong believers in a democratic society, we represent millions of people who have migrated to this country in search of a brighter future. Our collective hard work has and will continue to advance this nation. We urge people to champion the fight for a fair comprehensive immigration reform policy that values due process and civil liberties for all.

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