



Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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THE WHITE HOUSE TAKES A WRONG TURN ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Washington, DC -- For weeks, the White House has been working on a set of immigration principles with Senate Republicans. Yesterday, these principles were leaked to the press. The following is a statement by the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CCIR), a campaign by immigrant advocacy, policy, labor, and faith-based organizations to achieve workable comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

“The American people want real solutions and real reform on immigration. It is a fact that, to achieve workable reform, we need Congress and the White House to work in a bipartisan manner. While the House of Representatives has taken steps in that direction with the leadership of Reps. Flake (R-AZ) and Gutierrez (D-IL), the White House has sadly gone in the opposite direction. We urge the White House and Senate Republicans who are serious about getting reform done to adjust their course dramatically,” said Clarissa Martinez-De-Castro, campaign manager for CCIR.

ANTI-FAMILY. “The White House proposal destroys the cornerstone of America’s immigration policy which contributes to productive, healthy and well integrated communities: the reuniting of families. While it does nothing to address long backlogs, it reduces or eliminates whole visa categories for close family members, and subjects other relatives to compete for permanent residency based on a so-called “merit” system that favors the wealthy and well educated. The proposal fails to address a major cause of undocumented immigration and instead tears families apart.” said Karen Narasaki, of the Asian America Justice Center.

ANTI-WORKER. “The leaked plan essentially says to immigrants ‘we want your labor, we want you sweat, we want your compliance, but we don’t want you or your family.’ It has no obvious path to citizenship for immigrants here or coming as workers in the future; no protections for workers from exploitative employers, unsafe working conditions, or unfair wages. And nothing to protect the wages of the existing workforce against bottom feeding employers,” said Hector Figueroa, Secretary Treasurer of SEIU Local 32BJ based in New York.

ANTI-SOLUTION. The Strategy Council of the CCIR Campaign, made up of 38 organizations, said in conclusion: “We stand ready to support any serious, workable, and politically viable proposal, but what the White House leaked on Thursday doesn’t even come close.”

The campaign’s website is www.cirnnow.org.

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