

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Nebraska Appleseed Praises New Legislation for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Lincoln, NE - March 22, 2007 - Today, Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest praises action in Congress on comprehensive immigration reform. Representative Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and Representative Jeff Flake (R-AZ) are releasing bipartisan comprehensive legislation today that will replace an immigration system that is unregulated, chaotic, and abusive with one that is secure, controlled and fair.

Though Nebraska Appleseed will be studying the details of this specific legislation, it appears the Gutierrez-Flake bill, known as the STRIVE Act (Security Through Regularized Immigration and Vibrant Economy) includes the principles and elements we believe are needed to fix our broken immigration system. These principles include restoring the rule of law, providing a path to earned citizenship, protecting immigrant and American workers alike, reuniting families, respecting due process, and helping newcomers become new Americans while helping the communities in which they settle.

"We welcome the STRIVE Act because it moves us in the direction of our goal: to get our Federal government to act decisively to get comprehensive immigration reform done this year, to get it done right, and to make it work on the ground once it is implemented," said Darcy Tromanhauser, Director of the Immigrant Integration and Civic Participation Program at Nebraska Appleseed. "We will be studying the details of the proposal in the coming days because the details matter. We want comprehensive immigration reform this year - but not just any bill that calls itself comprehensive. It must be workable if it is to be the solution we as a nation need and want," continued Tromanhauser. "It will take leaders in both parties to make comprehensive immigration reform work, and Reps. Gutierrez and Flake are showing a way forward."

Virtually every public opinion poll shows that Americans are impatient for Federal action to solve the immigration problem once and for all. A recent Gallup/USA Today poll released just last week shows that when confronted with a series of policy choices, 59% of all Americans prefer a comprehensive solution with an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

"We are excited that Congress is listening and that we have real action on Capitol Hill. Immigrants are a major asset to our state and they represent an important part of our future. Nebraska can't afford to wait any longer for immigration reform," said Tromanhauser.

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