

HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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www.hbadc.org

December 13, 2010

Via Facsimile and first class mail.

Senator Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202) 224-7327

Senator Mitch McConnell
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: (202) 224-2499

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:


On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia ("HBA-DC"), I write to express our support for Congress' continuing work toward a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Consistent with our mission to promote equal justice for all Hispanics, the HBA-DC supports reform of our nation's immigration laws and efforts to address our current undocumented immigrant population. To that end, the HBA-DC supports legislation that addresses the following issues:

- Feasible and humane immigration and border policies that enhance security, help reunite families, protect immigrant workers, promote citizenship and civic participation and do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity or country of origin;
- Humane treatment of children and adults while in custody, including due process and access to justice;
- Increased penalties for individuals engaged in the business of human smuggling and trafficking;
- Increased funds for our immigration courts to address current backlogs and continued efforts to ensure that individuals in immigration proceedings are treated fairly;
- A program of earned adjustment to legal status for undocumented workers who are willing to fulfill reasonable requirements;
- A temporary worker program that can provide for labor that is needed by American industries;

- Equitable wages and improved working conditions for immigrant workers;
- Employment verification processes that are fair to both employers and employees;
- Eligibility for immigrant students already in this country to continue their education through college and to earn a path to legal permanent residency;
- Acceptance of the contributions made by faith-based non-profit organizations and others that provide services to immigrants regardless of their legal status;
- More effective enforcement of the immigration laws without criminalizing immigrants, without subjecting immigrants to mandatory deportation, indefinite detention and denial of due process, and without giving local and state police unprecedented authority to enforce federal immigration laws that would compromise public safety and unfairly target particular immigrant communities.

As you may know, the HBA-DC is a non-profit organization established in the District of Columbia in 1977. The HBA-DC membership includes several hundred lawyers practicing in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia, Latino students attending local law schools, and other non-lawyers who join as associate members. The HBA-DC is affiliated with the Hispanic National Bar Association and we support their efforts in this endeavor as well. We thank you for your attention and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Patricia Larios,

Co-Chairperson

Legislative & Policy Issues Committee