



CAUSA



MEDIA ADVISORY
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OBSTRUCTIONISTS DERAILED IMMIGRATION REFORM FOR NOW

Advocates vow to continue fight and hold Senators accountable to getting true reform done

Salem, Oregon – *Yesterday, a procedural vote in the United States Senate that would have allowed immigration reform to move forward, was defeated. CAUSA, Oregon's statewide immigrant rights coalition, issued the following statement:*

Yesterday, the United States Senate let America down by failing to move forward on comprehensive immigration reform. Republicans neglected their duty to pass reform that strengthens our economy and upholds the values of faith and family that are the cornerstone of our democracy. President George Bush's leadership fell short when he failed to deliver enough of his own party's votes.

Oregon Republican Senator Gordon Smith joined his colleagues in voting against the motion for cloture, allowing partisan politics to derail reform that workers in Oregon's agriculture, nursery, and service industries desperately need. Immigrant rights groups have protested seven times in front of Sen. Smith's Portland office in the last two weeks and denounce his votes on several other anti-immigrant amendments.

Though deeply disappointed, we stand up for the dignity of the hardworking men, women and children who live in even greater fear today than they did this yesterday as a result of the inaction by the Senate. We stand with the vast majority of Americans who demand a workable solution to this issue and who understand that our lives and our values are deeply intertwined with the condition and fate of immigrants. We will continue to fight for workable legislation that has a path to citizenship for all workers, reunites families, and is better than the legislation that failed to move forward yesterday.

We have hope that the Senate will find its true voice and take up this issue, and the House will not shy away from the challenge – because neither the issue, nor the 12 million people living in the shadows, are going away.

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