



Comprehensive Immigration Reform
Subcommittee Tool Kit:
*Preparing for a Legislative Visit**

This is Our Campaign: Keys to Success

These materials provide you with ideas and tools to help make this campaign a success. The Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa and Nebraska prepared the tool kit with models from several sources and information from public relations professionals with decades of experience at the local and national levels. In the end, however, the success or failure of this campaign will depend on you – your initiative and your willingness to work. The following should guide your efforts and will go a long way toward ensuring your success.

- **Emphasize the positive.** The most successful politicians (think of Presidents Roosevelt and Reagan) are optimists who look on the positive side. When talking about immigration, you should speak with same vigor and hope for the future.
- **Don't go it alone.** Find compelling partners in your community who will talk about the benefits of immigration. Coalitions are always stronger than one voice alone.
- **Always focus on the campaign's core messages.** Support is growing throughout Iowa and Nebraska for sensible reform of our national immigration laws. In community after community, people agree that local families need help reuniting, that family breadwinners need clear legal status while they are working, living, and paying taxes in our area, and that we should provide a pathway to citizenship for our newest neighbors. Work with us to make a difference!
- **Personalize the story.** People like hearing about real people, not policies. Whenever possible, bring real people forward, or work them into the stories you present to your Senator or Representative
- **Build support for our issues with prominent local groups.** Attend local community events and public hearings to build bridges with your neighbors. Seek out opportunities where you can speak – or have your clients speak – at public events. Look for opportunities to present your case to your community. Attend community meetings (such as town hall, PTA, rotary club, local economic development council meetings) and get to know these leaders. Volunteer to speak, or have your client speak, at these meetings. Work with these organizations to pass pro-immigration resolutions.
- **Work with other public officials in support of our agenda.** Take time to meet with public officials about the benefits of immigration. Work with your allies so that the town council, for example, passes a resolution in support of immigration and immigrants or sponsors an official “Immigration Reform” day.

If you need advice or help, call us. The Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa and Nebraska is here to help you. We have a lot of experience at media and public relations, grassroots advocacy and coalition building. Whatever your question or problem, we are here to help at (402) 689-4249.



How to Communicate Effectively About Refugee & Immigrant Issues

Who		to Whom	
(Messengers)	(Message)	(Audience)	(Vehicles)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ YOU! Advocates, service providers, experts, volunteers ✧ Refugees, immigrants (“human face”) ✧ Constituency and community leaders ✧ Unusual allies (from across political spectrum, strike audience as unusual) ✧ Opinion leaders and policy makers 	<p>What Works</p> <p>Shared values first; facts and figures second:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ <i>Who we are as a nation or as a state, as a city; e.g. “we are a nation of immigrants; a beacon of hope for refugees; unity out of diversity; liberty and justice for all...”</i> ✧ <i>Newcomers are us: “work hard, pay taxes, learn English, strong faith, strong families, renew neighborhoods, open businesses, become citizens, buy homes, love freedom, fled persecution or hardship, voted with their feet...”</i> ✧ <u>Frame the problem; then offer solutions.</u> ✧ <u>State why solution is in the interest of all of us;</u> how it’s in sync with security, enforcement, limits; name your allies. ✧ <u>Make the ask!</u> <p><u>What Doesn’t Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Emphasizing numbers in admissions context ✧ Caution: guilt tripping and race baiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ General public opinion regarding refugees and immigrants, policies: 10%–40%–40%–10% ✧ Interestingly, not much change since 9/11, except for refugees (may be temporary) ✧ “Antis” tend to have more intensity than “Pros” ✧ Statistically significant predictive factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ education ○ income ○ connection with immigrant heritage Statistically insignificant factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ race/ethnicity ○ political party ○ gender/age ✧ African Americans: similar views, different dynamics; many are “cross-pressured” (allies in the struggle, or competitors that are favored?) ✧ Latino, Asian Pacific, other immigrant/refugee communities view immigration as a defining issue (not the only issue) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Speeches ✧ Debates ✧ Written materials ✧ Newspaper quotes ✧ Radio appearances ✧ Television appearances ✧ Press Conferences ✧ Rallies ✧ Fundraising pitches ✧ Meetings with policymakers and opinion leaders
<p>Key Point you + human face + allies + unusual allies = victory</p>	<p>Key Point prepare 3-4 key messages; stick to them</p>	<p>Key Point Win middle + activate base = win agenda</p>	<p>Key Point if you don’t speak up – and often – you won’t be heard</p>

To persuade the public and policy makers we need to be repetitive. Don’t presume that the public and policy makers will understand our issues, even over time. Breaking through and moving the public and policy makers in our direction will take years. These simple reminders will help you “frame” your message.

● **VALUES FIRST – FACTS LATER**

Based on our research and our trial and error, we suggest crafting messages that connect with core values Americans hold near and dear to their hearts. By leading with values, and supporting the values-laden arguments with facts, your audience will become more receptive to your messages. Immigrants, refugees, foreigners, and their place in American society conjure deeply held emotions. Individual Americans often have conflicting, even contradictory feelings on these issues. Placing your issue within an emotional or values context can make your arguments easier to understand and ultimately embrace.

● **WHO IMMIGRANTS ARE: “THEY” ARE “US”**

Just as the anti-immigrant advocates try to drive a wedge between the native-born and the foreign-born, we must stress the ways in which immigrants today, like immigrants before them, share the values and aspirations of America. The goal is to express the commonality between foreign-born and native-born people; to stress that we are more alike than different; to build understanding across cultural lines; to underscore that there is no “we” and “they” in this country.

- **WHO WE ARE AS A NATION**

Not only is it true that immigrants share most or all of the personal values that Americans hold deeply, being a nation welcoming to immigrants and refugees is also a deeply ingrained part of American history. Americans are very proud of America. Messages that emphasize America’s unique character—a democratic government, fair rules applied equally and opportunity for success through hard work—will persuade and set stage for moving your audience to accepting your policy recommendation. Simply put, being welcoming and fair to immigrants is consistent with our values; looking down on, ostracizing, scapegoating, mistreating, stigmatizing, or isolating immigrants is not.

If we incorporate these values-laden messages into every communications opportunity, we increase the chances that our audience will embrace the more complicated policy positions we are taking.

- **DEFINING THE PROBLEM, PRESCRIBING THE SOLUTION**

Because our opponents have had a free reign to define the “problems” of immigration for the American people for too long, we must take back the initiative to define the problems with our broken immigration system and bad policies that ensnare good people. We must reframe what the problems are and then have solid, common sense solutions that address them.

- **WHY IT MATTERS**

We must engage audiences, show them why their self-interest is at stake, how values and ideals they hold dear are in jeopardy, and clearly articulate the consequences of action or inaction. We must state why this change agenda is in the interest of all of us, including how it’s in sync with security and enforcement.

MESSENGERS

The people who speak on behalf of immigrants are almost as important as the messages they send in terms of the ways in which the audience responds.

YOU—THE ADVOCATE

Advocates and service providers working with and for immigrants are often the most vocal messengers on behalf of the communities they serve. However, most Americans resist arguments from those they perceive to have a self interest in the debate. They may suspect that advocates and service providers will benefit financially and politically from policies that are welcoming to immigrants. While we may not be the most effective spokespeople, we are often the spokespeople for the communities we serve. Embracing communications as a component of the jobs we do on behalf of immigrants is a critical step towards building the type of understanding and power we need to win victories.

IMMIGRANTS

The most effective messengers for immigrants and refugees are immigrants and refugees themselves. Their accounts of their own experiences are the most compelling, honest, emotional, and sympathetic. By telling their own stories in their own words, immigrants put a human face on the issues, policies and politics related to immigration.

Look at your local newspaper or television news. Almost every story about a big issue or an event will focus in on one or more personal stories. In this way, journalists try to make their stories more interesting and comprehensible to people who know little about the issue(s).

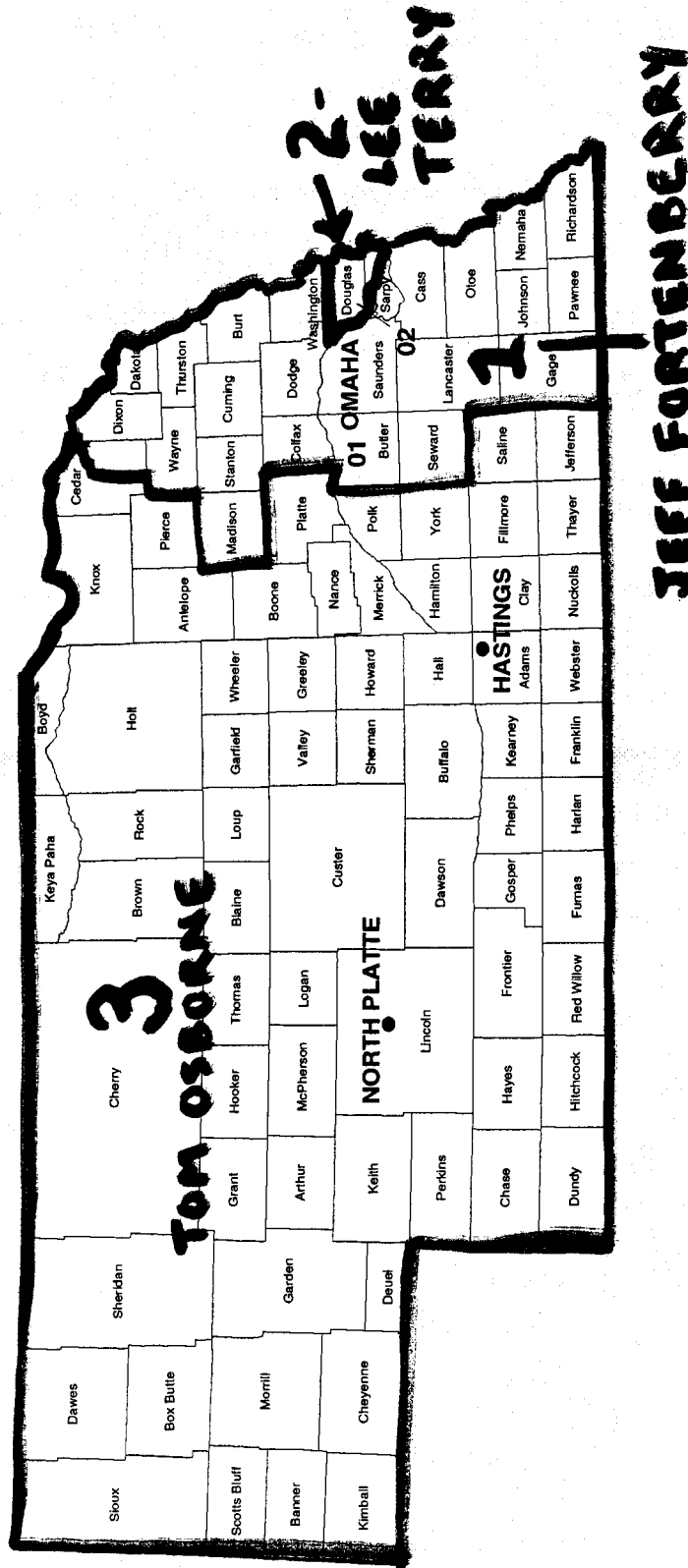
Preparing those we work with to be able to tell their stories effectively and succinctly is important. All of our issues have a human impact. Working with those who can best and most persuasively tell their personal stories is therefore an important component of our communications preparations.

UNUSUAL MESSENGERS

When we are able to reach out to additional messengers in our communities, the breadth and depth of support for refugees and immigrants can be demonstrated. Also, some messengers, because of their jobs or positions in the community, carry a great deal of weight. The clergy, law enforcement, public safety workers, elected and appointed officials, business and labor leaders, teachers, and children can be extremely helpful allies in communicating on behalf of immigrants and refugees.

**NEBRASKA
U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

**YOU HAVE 2 SENATORS: CHUCK HAGEL & BEN NELSON
and 1 REPRESENTATIVE: See map.**



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
CENTRAL REGION**

- Weather Forecast Office
- County Boundary
- District Boundary

Taking Your Coalition to Your Elected Officials

Once you have identified your potential coalition allies, developing and maintaining a relationship with your mayors, state representatives, and Members of Congress is a critical part of this campaign. Calling and visiting elected officials are only two ways to build a relationship. A little creativity can go a long way. The following suggestions, while focusing on your federal elected officials – your Senators and Representatives – apply when meeting other elected officials. Please note that these suggestions are not meant as substitutes for letters, calls and visits, but rather as ways to increase your visibility in your elected officials' offices.

When scheduling the events noted below, keep in mind that Members of Congress are often in their districts or states from Friday to Monday, and are in town periodically when Congress is not in session. Do not hesitate to call a Member's office to find out when he or she will be in town.

- Invite your Senators and Representatives, and/or their staff, to attend a coalition meeting. Select a meeting that features an appropriate guest speaker and ask the Member of Congress to say a few words. Or ask the Member of Congress to be the featured speaker.
- Organize a community forum on immigration. Invite local businesses, service providers and others from the community to talk about how federal immigration policy affects your community. Invite your Members of Congress and their staff. Advise local press of the event.
- Bring coalition members and your clients to meet their Members of Congress. Putting a face to the issue is your most powerful advocacy tool.
- Encourage your Members of Congress and their staff to use you as a resource on immigration matters. You can be an important resource by providing analysis of pending immigration legislation and by offering to assist the office with immigration-related constituent concerns (you may even get some referrals this way.)

Meeting with Members of Congress and the Administration

Adapted with guidance by the American Immigration Lawyers Association www.aila.org

Face-to-face meetings are the most effective way to influence policymakers. You can meet with them either in their district offices or in Washington, DC. If you are unable to see policymakers in person, you should still meet with their staffers.

Arranging The Appointment

- To meet with your senators and/or representatives, call the legislator's office (either in Washington, DC or at home). Identify yourself as a constituent (if you are) and ask to speak to the staffer who is responsible for immigration. Generally, members of Congress are in Washington, DC Tuesday through Thursday, and are frequently home Friday through Monday and when Congress is not in session.
- If you are asking for a meeting with White House staff or staff for other administrative agencies, it may be more difficult to identify with whom you need to speak. At the White House, immigration policy is often handled by Domestic Policy staff, although the President's political advisors have great influence.
- When you speak to the staffer, explain the purpose of the meeting and who will be attending.

Preparing For The Meeting

- **DO YOUR HOMEWORK!** Know exactly what you want to say and carefully review your messages. See www.irnin.org for more information.
- If possible, compile information about the impact of specific immigration issues on the members of Congress' district/state. Do not compile a long list of statistics: your elected officials will not remember them and they will lose their impact. Prepare a few dramatic numbers or anecdotes to illustrate your points. Collect recent local news articles that illustrate the issue. Or, consider including in your meeting individuals who would be affected by the policy change.
- To encourage policymakers to support a specific immigration issue, present materials that clearly articulate your position, using specific case examples when possible.
- Know the counter-arguments and be ready to respectfully answer any questions or disagreements.
- Make sure everyone in your group is prepared. Brief everyone attending the meeting and make sure they have any written materials to review well ahead of time.
- Be organized. Agree ahead of time the role each participant will take, who discusses what, and in what order participants will speak.
- If you are going as part of a larger coalition, meet ahead of time. It is unwise to have an internal debate or conversation in front of your elected official. Be certain everyone agrees on your group's central message and what you want to ask the legislator to do for you.
- Prepare a packet to leave behind that could include background information, fact sheets and/or newspaper clippings. Attach your card to the packet.
- If arranging a meeting with White House or other Administration staff, you may have to give your name, date, and social security number to the person chairing the meeting, for a security check. Please do not give your contact information and social security number if you do not have stable immigration status.

Making The Presentation

- Be on time! Allow extra time to clear security, especially at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and in busy federal office buildings.
- Begin by introducing yourselves.
- Explain to the legislator/staffer why you asked for the meeting.
- Present your concerns simply and directly. Get to your "bottom line" immediately. Be brief, direct, courteous and positive. Presentation of each topic roughly should follow this outline:

Background: **Explain the issue in the simplest possible terms.**

Impact: **Explain how the issue directly affects your community or the group you represent.**

Recommendation: **Indicate what you would like the policymaker to do.**

- Do not fight with the policymaker or staff members. Politely answer questions and concerns, but if you disagree, make your point and move on. Remember, you are meeting with the Member or staff person to inform him/her about your positions on issues.

- If you do not know the answer to a question, say so, and promise to get back with the answer. Be sure to follow-up with your answer as quickly as possible after the meeting.
- Make sure you do not do all of the talking! Give the policymaker opportunities to ask questions or state his or her opinion. Members and staff will appreciate the chance to be heard, and you will learn much more by listening. Also ask questions.
- Stay away from jargon and acronyms. Remember that the policymaker deals with dozens, if not hundreds, of issues each week, each with its own “language.”
- Thank the policymaker if he or she has been supportive. They get thanked far less than they get criticized. They will appreciate your recognition.
- Be sure to ask for the policymaker’s support. If he or she is already very supportive, ask him or her to cosponsor the relevant bill and/or take a leadership role in moving the bill through the process, getting additional cosponsors, or other ways.

Following-Up After The Meeting

- Send a note thanking the Member or staff person for meeting with you. Briefly summarize the main points of the meeting.
- Remember to follow-up with responses to any questions the Member or staff person asked but you could not answer at the time.
- Do not think of the meeting as an isolated event. Think of other ways to maintain the relationship you have initiated.

And finally, but very importantly...

Report back to your national allies. These reports are invaluable in developing legislative strategies and tracking Members’ positions on issues important to the pro-immigration community at large.

Legislative Visit – Report Form

After visiting with the Representative or staff, please take a moment to discuss the visit with your group, fill out this form and return it to Ed Leahy. Thank you for your time!

NAMES OF MEMBERS IN YOUR GROUP:
REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE VISITED: IF VISIT WAS WITH AIDE PLEASE INDICATE NAME:
Did Representative commit to supporting HR 2330? Please describe his/her attitude about the issue or specific comments and questions the Representative had.
What reaction did the Representative have to any other issue raised? About immigrants in Nebraska?
Was there any follow-up information requested. If yes, what specifically:

Legislative Visit – Report Form

After visiting with the Senator or staff, please take a moment to discuss the visit with your group, fill out this form and return it to Ed Leahy. Thank you for your time!

NAMES OF MEMBERS IN YOUR GROUP:
SENATOR'S OFFICE VISITED:
IF VISIT WAS WITH AIDE PLEASE INDICATE NAME:
Did Senator commit to supporting S. 1033? Please describe his/her attitude about the issue or specific comments and questions the Senator had.
What reaction did the Senator have to any other issue raised? About immigrants in Nebraska?
Was there any follow-up information requested. If yes, what specifically:

PREPARANDO PARA UNA VISITA LEGISLATIVA Cuando se reúna con sus legisladores

Adaptado de la Asociación Americana de Abogados de Inmigración y

Las reuniones cara a cara son la manera más efectiva de influir a sus legisladores. Puede reunirse con ellos en sus oficinas de distrito o en Washington, D.C. Si no puede ver a sus legisladores en persona, debe reunirse de todos modos con su personal. El personal de los legisladores se ocupa a diario de los asuntos relacionados con la legislación, los reglamentos y las políticas y tienen una gran influencia sobre la posición y los votos de sus jefes.

Concertar una cita

- Llame a la oficina de su legislador (puede ser en Washington o en su región). Pida hablar con la persona que lleva la agenda del legislador. En general, los legisladores están en Washington de martes a jueves y están con frecuencia en su estado de viernes a lunes, y cuando el Congreso se encuentra en receso.
- Cuando hable con la persona encargada de la agenda, explique el propósito de la reunión y quién asistirá.
- A no ser que tenga un problema inusual, no pida una reunión de más de media hora porque los legisladores suelen estar sobrecargados de citas. La mayoría de las reuniones duran entre 15 y 20 minutos.

Prepararse para la reunión

- ¡HAGA SU DEBERES! Sepa exactamente lo que quiere decir y revise cuidadosamente su mensaje. Vea la pagina www.immigrationforum.org para mas información o llame al Departamento de Campañas de AILA para aprender más sobre las actuales leyes de inmigración y obtener el historial de votos de su legislador. Acuerde con antelación el papel que va a desempeñar cada participante, quién habla de qué, y en qué orden van a intervenir los participantes.
- Recopile información sobre la repercusión de asuntos específicos sobre inmigración en su distrito y estado. No recopile una larga lista de estadísticas: sus funcionarios electos no los recordarán y perderán su impacto. Prepare unas cuantas cifras o anécdotas dramáticas para ilustrar sus puntos. Reúna artículos recientes sobre inmigración que ilustren el asunto. Al igual que la mayoría de la gente, los legisladores recuerdan con más facilidad ejemplos presentados en términos humanos y personales.
- Para animar a los legisladores a apoyar un asunto específico de inmigración, presente materiales que articulen claramente su posición, utilizando ejemplos de casos específicos cuando sea posible.
- Conozca los argumentos contrarios y esté listo para responder respetuosamente a preguntas o desacuerdos.
- Asegúrese de que todos los integrantes de su grupo están preparados. Informe a todos los asistentes a la reunión y asegúrese de que tienen materiales escritos (perfil biográfico de los legisladores y sus opiniones, etc.) para que los revisen con bastante antelación.
- Prepare un paquete para dejárselo a su legislador que podría incluir información de antecedentes, hojas de datos y/o recortes de periódicos. Adjunte su tarjeta al paquete.

Hacer la presentación

- ¡Sea puntual!
- Explique al legislador por qué pidió la reunión.
- Presente sus preocupaciones simplemente y directamente. Vaya al grano inmediatamente. Sea breve, directo, cortés y positivo. Cuando presente cada asunto, no asuma que su legislador tiene algún conocimiento anterior sobre el tema. La presentación de cada tema debe seguir en terminos generales esta estructura:

Historial: Explique el asunto en los términos más simples.

Impacto: Explique como este asunto directamente afecta a su comunidad o el grupo que representa.

Recomendación: Indique que es lo que quiere que el legislador haga al respecto.

- No pelee con su legislador o los miembros de su personal. Responda educadamente a las preguntas y preocupaciones, pero si no está de acuerdo, explique su postura y pase a otro tema. Recuerde, se está reuniendo con el legislador o su personal para informarle sobre su posición sobre los asuntos.
- Si no sabe la respuesta a una pregunta, dígallo, y prometa darles una respuesta posteriormente. Asegúrese de dar su respuesta lo más rápido posible después de la reunión.
- ¡Asegúrese de que no acapara la palabra! Dé a su legislador la oportunidad de hacer preguntas u ofrecer su opinión. Los legisladores y su personal apreciarán tener la oportunidad de que les escuchen. También haga preguntas.
- Evita la jerga y las siglas. Recuerde que su legislador se ocupa de docenas, si no cientos, de temas cada semana, cada uno de los cuales tiene su propio “lenguaje.”
- Agradezca a los legisladores su apoyo. Reciben muchos menos agradecimientos que críticas. Apreciarán su reconocimiento.
- Asegúrese de pedir el apoyo de su legislador. Si su legislador ya le está prestando mucho apoyo, pídale que copatrocine el proyecto de ley en cuestión y/o asuma el liderazgo en avanzar la propuesta, obtener otros copatrocinadores, etc.

Haga seguimiento después de la reunión

- Envié una nota dando las gracias al legislador o al miembro de su personal por reunirse con ustedes. Resuma brevemente los puntos principales de la reunión.
- Recuerde responder a cualquier pregunta que le hicieran el legislador o el miembro de su personal y no pudo responder en ese momento.
- No considere la reunión un evento aislado. Aunque puede que no vuelva a tener un encuentro cara a cara durante un tiempo, invite a su funcionario electo a hablar en un evento o reunión. Piense en otras maneras de mantener la relación que ha iniciado.

Y finalmente, pero muy importante...

- De un reporte a sus aliados locales y nacionales (por ejemplo, a su coalición local, a la Red por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes de Iowa Y Nebraska, y a AILA o otros grupos nacionales). Los informes sobre iniciativas de base tienen un valor incalculable en el desarrollo de estrategias legislativas y el seguimiento de las posiciones de los legisladores en asuntos importantes para la comunidad pro-inmigrante.

Esta es nuestra campaña: Claves hacia el éxito.

Los recursos en esta paquete le proveen ideas y herramientas para que nuestra campana sea un éxito. La Red de Derechos Inmigrantes de IA y NE preparo este paquete con modelos de varias Fuentes e información de profesionales en relaciones publicas con décadas de experiencia a los niveles locales y nacionales. A la cuenta fenal, sin embargo, el éxito de esta campana dependerá en usted su imitativa y su

disponibilidad para trabajar. Los puntos siguientes pueden guiar sus esfuerzos y le ayudaran para asegurar su éxito.

- **Enfoque en el positivo:** Hablando de inmigración, debemos hablar con optimismo, animo, y esperanza para un futuro mejor.
- **Busca Aliados fuertes y inusuales:** Hay personas, organizaciones, y instituciones en su comunidad que apoyan la reforma de inmigración. Cuando los invitamos, nuestra voz común es más fuerte.
- **Enfoque en el mensaje central:** Se crezca el apoyo en todas partes de Iowa y Nebraska por una reforma sensata de nuestras leyes nacionales de inmigración. En comunidad tras comunidad la gente esta de acuerdo que familias necesitan ayuda en reunificarse, que los trabajadores necesitan un estatus legal mientras están trabajando, viviendo y pagando sus impuestos, y que debemos proveer un camino hacia la permanencia y la ciudadanía para nuestros vecinos nuevos. ¡Juntase con nosotros para cambiar la ley!
- **Personalice a la historia:** La gente relaciona a personas reales, no pólizas. Cuando sea posible, comparte la historia actual de un inmigrante o mejor, deje que el inmigrante habla sobre si mismo.
- **Construye el apoyo para nuestros asuntos localmente:** Asiste a eventos locales para construir puentes de entendimiento entre sus vecinos. Busca a oportunidades para presentar sobre la inmigración en su comunidad (consejo de la ciudad, PTA, grupo guadal apaño; etc....) y conozca a sus líderes. Pédelos su apoyo para la reforma.
- **Trabaja con otros oficiales públicos en apoyo de nuestra agenda:** Visite al alcalde, el consejo, y la policía. Pédelos pasar una resolución a favor de la reforma de inmigración.

Si necesita ayuda o consejo, llámenos. La Red de Derechos Inmigrantes existe para ayudarle. Tenemos la experiencia con la media y relaciones publicas, con organización en la comunidad y Formando coaliciones. Cualquier pregunta o problema, le ayudaremos al TEL. (402) 689-4249.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Lobbying Considerations Before You Start

For organizations-- As 501(c)(3) organizations, non-profits are subject to limits on lobbying members of Congress and the Administrative branch regarding changes to federal law. However, current rules afford non-profits wide latitude in lobbying federal officials and in educating government staff and the public about issues that affect their communities. Yet it is always best to check with a lawyer if you have any doubts. You may also check the following websites:

Charity Lobbying in the Public Interest

http://www.clpi.org/lobby_law_hm.html (See the “Quick Tutorial on the Lobby Law”)

Independent Sector

The Non-Profit Lobbying Guide

<http://www.independentsector.org/programs/gr/lobbyguide.html>

For Individuals-- Persons acting on their own do not have limits on their ability to contact members of Congress and advocate for or against specific legislation. That is how the process works—members of Congress are most responsive to their constituents’ needs and requests, because they were elected to serve them.

First things First: How to Plug In

Working Groups-- Immigrants’ rights groups in D.C. have organized themselves into “working groups” on various topics, and/or have established list-servs where advocates from around the country can share information. In general, these working groups and list-servs are managed by one or more lead organizations, with local and national participation. While the working groups often share information via email, they also meet via conference calls or in person. To find out about which working groups or list-servs deal with which issues, please contact the National Immigration Forum at (202) 383-5984 or vcardenas@immigrationforum.org

Bill status and co-sponsors—This information can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov>, the Library of Congress’ legislative search engine. To find the bill you are looking for, you will either need to know the bill number, title, or chief sponsor, or do a search on key words. For analysis of legislation you can contact any of the major national organizations, such as the National Council of La Raza, National Immigration Law Center, National Immigration Forum, MALDEF, etc.

Information gathered from:

American Immigration Lawyers Association

National Immigration Forum

Nebraska Unicameral Legislature 2005 Roster