

## **GUTIERREZ-FLAKE IMMIGRATION BILL PROTECTS AMERICA'S SECURITY, FAMILIES, ECONOMY AND FUTURE**

Bipartisan House bill is a positive step in reforming our broken immigration system

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Washington, DC – Today's introduction of comprehensive immigration reform legislation "is a long awaited and positive step toward reforming our broken immigration system," stated John Trasviña, President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

The legislation, "The Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act of 2007" (STRIVE Act of 2007) was introduced by U.S. Representatives Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ). "By combining the promise of legal status for people who have a record of contributing to the nation's economy and communities, smarter and more strategic federal immigration law enforcement, and a visa system that employers can use to hire new workers who have labor rights, this bill protects our security, our families, our economy and our future," continued Trasviña.

"We thank Representatives Gutierrez and Flake for their outstanding leadership in introducing legislation that establishes a legal pathway for workers to work and employers to hire them, and allows the Border Patrol to focus on the nation's security concerns," stated MALDEF Legislative Attorney Eric Gutierrez. "As the legislative process moves forward in Congress, MALDEF will work vigorously to make needed improvements and additions to the legislation and oppose efforts that do not serve the national interest. Immigrants, who work in some of the most dangerous jobs in the United States, deserve to work and live with dignity. Now is the time for all communities – and Congress and President Bush – to come together to enact immigration law reforms that do justice to the nation's immigrant heritage and prepare us for the future," concluded Gutierrez.

MALDEF will publish an analysis of the bill on its website, including in-depth, provision-by-provision legal and policy statements.

Founded in 1968, MALDEF, the nation's leading Latino legal organization, promotes and protects the rights of Latinos through litigation, advocacy, community education and outreach, leadership development, and higher education scholarships.

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