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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SENATE SUSPENDS CONSIDERATION OF IMMIGRATION
REFORM**

LOS ANGELES, CA.—*The Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, which represents hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants in several major class action cases and national projects, made the following statement today in response to President Bush’s radio address, in which he urged the Senate to bring the immigration bill back to the floor, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s decision to postpone consideration of the proposal until “enough Republicans are ready to join us in moving forward on a bill to fix our broken immigration system.”*

We are disappointed that President Bush has refused to endorse an immigration reform proposal that is realistic, rational, and humane.

The “Grand Bargain,” endorsed by President Bush and a small bipartisan group of Senators, is fatally flawed inasmuch as it would not grant most undocumented immigrants lawful permanent resident status anytime in the foreseeable future, it would harm U.S. workers by introducing millions of exploitable temporary foreign workers into the labor market, it would destroy the chances of millions of families to obtain “family-unity” visas in the future, it would cause more deaths along the border and destruction of border communities, and it would quickly build up a new massive undocumented population by blocking traditional methods of lawful immigration.

We therefore fully support the difficult decision made by Senate Majority Leader Reid to defer consideration of the Senate immigration reform proposal until a greater consensus develops for something close to a rational and humane overhaul of the immigration laws.

Along with concerned labor organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based groups, and others advocating for rational immigration reform, we will continue to push for prompt and positive changes, including by promoting the comprehensive solutions proposed in the Unity Blueprint for Immigration Reform, <http://www.unityblueprint.org>

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