



The Anti-Displacement Project *Casa Obrera Worker Center*

130 Union Street • Springfield, MA 01105
• (413) 739-7233 • fax (413) 746-3012 • www.a-dp.org

MEDIA ADVISORY
May 1, 2007

Contact: Caroline Murray (413) 219-1108
Luis Alvarenga (413) 244-3205

Immigrant Workers and Families, Organized Labor and Faith Leaders call for Fair Immigration Reform that leads to Citizenship, ends Deportations, and the Removal of Guest Worker Provisions

Workers and Immigrants Unite in Saying “We Can’t Wait Anymore”

WHO:

The Anti-Displacement Project Worker Center / Casa Obrera & Accion Latina
100 Immigrant Workers and Families, Community, Labor and Faith leaders.

Speakers include:

Father William Pomerleau, Catholic Diocese of Springfield;
Richard Brown, AFL-CIO;
Jorge Gonzalez, worker, ADP Worker Center / Casa Obrera;
Rev. Luis Alvarenga, Accion Latina / Old First Church

WHAT:

Immigrant Rights rally to commemorate the immigrant justice mobilizations which took place last Spring establishing a new record as the largest immigrant justice mobilization in our nation’s history. This year’s events will oppose the recent wave of harsh deportations and demand a comprehensive and humane reform that respects civil rights, reunites families, protects workers, and offers legalization and a path to citizenship for undocumented and future immigrants to the US.

ADP / Casa Obrera members will also conduct a teach in and signature collection on postcards demanding Fair Immigration Reform. ADP / Casa Obrera will collect 10,000 postcards and deliver them to the Mass. congressional delegation and Senator Kennedy in Washington DC on June 19.

WHERE:

**Old First Church, Court Square, Springfield
Tuesday, May 1, 2007
5:00 – 5:45 pm
March leaves 130 Union Street at 4:30**

WHY:

When Representative Gutierrez of Illinois, Representative Flake of Arizona, and a bi-partisan group of twenty-eight members of Congress introduced the STRIVE Act last month, it marked the opening act in an important

campaign to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill this year. The STRIVE Act is a starting point, and an important one. But it is only the beginning.

Still ahead of us is a challenging campaign in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees and on the floor of both chambers to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill that includes a broad legalization program, protects the rights of all workers, ends the need for raids in worksites and immigrant communities, and reunites families. This is our moral imperative. The STRIVE Act makes important strides in each of these areas. Our task is to improve it still, and we'll march, vote and educate ourselves to ensure that we can improve it.

Yet powerful forces oppose our principles for reform and the STRIVE Act. Days after the STRIVE Act was introduced, a leaked White House plan for immigration reform made clear that this Administration opposes the reunification of families, will fight against a pathway to citizenship for the millions of immigrants already here, and will undermine the rights of all workers in America.

Today the full Senate is poised to debate a comprehensive immigration reform bill at the end of May. The House is preparing to debate a comprehensive immigration reform bill in June and July, something the House has never done before.

ADP is a multi-issue membership based community organization that is well known for its work to improve the lives of low-income people. ADP has transformed 1,450 units of slum housing to tenant owned permanently affordable coops, has created worker owned businesses, and has led a number of successful campaigns including saving funding for the Section 8 program. ADP and has created the Casa Obrera Worker Center to represent low wage and immigrant workers in fighting for enforcement of wage and hour and health and safety laws, and to serve as an alternative means of employment to the abusive day labor system.