

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leaders Call on Congress to Reform Immigration in 2010 for America's Families, Economy, and Future

NEBRASKA EVENT PART OF MAJOR NATIONWIDE MOBILIZATION

Omaha – Today, Nebraska faith, business, and community leaders gathered as part of a 50-state effort to urge Congress and the Administration to take action to accomplish rational and humane immigration reform in 2010.

The Honorable Mike Fahey, former Mayor of Omaha, and leaders representing the Nebraska Restaurant Association, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, and many faith and community groups held a press conference at St. John's Church at Creighton University in Omaha. 15,000 postcards with messages from Nebraskans urging the Congressional delegation to take action will also be delivered after the event.

More than 100 events are taking place across the country this week calling for workable solutions that uphold our values and allow us all to move forward together.

This week's mobilization occurred on the heels of major national developments for the immigration reform movement. Last Wednesday, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the Obama administration to make immigration reform a priority to enhance national security and improve the struggling economy. A major economic report from the Center for American Progress and Immigration Policy Center released last Thursday demonstrated that even during a recession, a path to legal status for immigrants would add \$1.5 trillion to the U.S. economy and raise wages for all U.S. workers. Common sense immigration reform is an important cornerstone of our economic recovery.

"Towns and cities across the Nebraska need a workable solution in order to move forward. We can't afford the costs, community impacts, ambiguity and potential litigation that come with further delay," said Michael Nolan of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

"The wide range of perspectives gathered here today shows the urgency Nebraskans feel about the need for reform this year," said Darcy Tromanhauser, director of Nebraska Appleseed's Immigrant Integration and Civic Participation Program. "Nebraska's communities, families, and economy can't wait any longer. We all stand to gain from practical and thorough reform that

keeps families together, ensures due process, and helps create a strong foundation for our economy, including raising wages for all workers, immigrant and U.S. born.”

Other supporters and participants included: Catholic Charities Omaha; Creighton University’s Center for Service and Justice; Heartland Workers’ Center; Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska; Lutheran Family Services/Lutheran Immigration Services of Nebraska; Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation; NAACP – Lincoln Branch; Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest; Omaha Together One Community; Peck Law Firm; Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community; United Food and Commercial Workers; Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Congregation Temple Israel; Rev. Howard Dotson, Westminster Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Dr. Damon Laaker, Lutheran Metro Ministry, Omaha; Fr. Chuck Lintz, Columban Fathers; Pastor Mike Ostrom, Fremont; and others.

For more information visit Reform Immigration For America at:

<http://www.reformimmigrationforamerica.org/> and

<http://www.reformamigratoriaproamerica.org/> (Spanish) and Justice for Immigrants at:

<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>

Individuals interested in joining the campaign are encouraged to text “justice” or “justicia” to 69866.

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For media inquiries to the Reform Immigration FOR America’s National Press Office, please contact: Martine Apodaca (202) 383-5989, mapodaca@reformimmigrationforamerica.org

Speakers/contacts:

- The Honorable Mike Fahey, former Mayor, City of Omaha
- The Rev. Andy Alexander, S. J., vice president for university ministry. Creighton University.
- Jim Partington, Nebraska Restaurant Association
- Maria Luisa Gaston, College of St. Mary
- Michael Nolan, League of Nebraska Municipalities
- The Rev. Bert Thelen, S.J., pastor, St. John’s Church