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Contact: Darcy Tromanhauser  
(402) 438-8853, [dtromanhauser@neappleseed.org](mailto:dtromanhauser@neappleseed.org)

## **WHITE HOUSE/HOMELAND SECURITY MEETING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SECRETARY NAPOLITANO TO LEAD ON IMMIGRATION REFORM**

*On Thursday, Secretary of Homeland Security [Janet Napolitano](#) will meet with [more than 100 immigrant advocates](#) and leaders from faith, business, and labor to discuss immigration reform. A number of leaders of the [Reform Immigration for America](#) campaign are invited. The following is a statement by Darcy Tromanhauser, Immigrant Integration and Civic Participation Program Director at Nebraska Appleseed, which is a member of the Reform Immigration for America campaign.*

This second White House meeting this summer once again demonstrates the momentum and urgency behind immigration reform. We want the Secretary of Homeland Security to be public and vocal, leading the way to a rational and humane immigration system for America. We need greater leadership from Secretary Napolitano to make the President's commitment to reform a reality.

We urgently need immigration reform because ramping up enforcement of our out-of-date system is only making a bad situation worse. The President has made clear that it is the laws, not just the enforcement of the laws, that needs changing. In order to properly enforce our immigration laws, we need a workable system that upholds our values and allows us to move forward together. Under current law, if you don't have family here and you don't qualify for a high-skilled business visa, there is essentially no way to apply to immigrate, no line to get in. Reform must legalize the undocumented, reunify families, ensure due process, and create a viable future flow system so immigrants enter with visas and rights, not with smugglers and limited rights.

We want Secretary Napolitano to take the lead and show concrete progress toward reform because the process must begin in earnest in 2009 if it is to be completed in early 2010. Our communities, families, and economy cannot afford to wait.

Rebecca L. Gould  
Executive Director

941 O Street, Suite 920  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
402.438.8853  
402.438.0263 Fax  
[www.neappleseed.org](http://www.neappleseed.org)

Affiliated with Appleseed Foundation,  
Washington, D.C.

A member of Community Services Fund,  
Lincoln, NE

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