

*National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights (NCIWR)*

December 5th, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama
P.O. Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear President-Elect Obama:

We are the *National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights (NCIWR)*, comprised of over 40 grassroots and national advocacy organizations working together to defend and promote equality for all immigrant women and their families living and working in the United States. We write to share with you our positions and values regarding comprehensive immigration reform, and urge you to take our recommendations seriously because any proposals dealing with immigration reform **MUST** consider the potential impact on the lives of immigrant women and families.

Because comprehensive immigration reform will be a topic of concern for your Administration and the 111th Congress, we strongly urge you to support the following policies and ask that your Administration promotes fair and non-discriminatory comprehensive immigration reform that advances reproductive and economic justice for immigrant women and their children, and puts a stop on cruel and inhumane raids and detention that tears families apart.

NCIWR strongly suggests that an **equitable immigration policy** for all immigrants, especially women and families **must include**:

- o **A Just Path to Permanent Residency and Citizenship** that allows immigrant women to obtain work permits, to travel internationally and access higher education and federal financial aid. Immigrant women must have viable options that will permit them to be full contributors in the U.S. workforce.
- o **Humane Enforcement Standards** when dealing with undocumented immigrant workers and inhabitants without using cruel raids and onerous detention stays that have a devastating impact on immigrant families;
- o **Access to Quality Health Care**, including comprehensive reproductive health services, to all immigrant women, children and families without regard to their immigration status; **and**
- o **Restoration of public economic and health benefits** to eligible immigrant women and their families.

The *National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights* believes that a fair, just and humane immigration policy will benefit all of us who live and work in the United States. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or if we can be of assistance at jenny@latinainstitute.org or at 202/393.8580. Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

NCIWR Steering Committee Members

cc: Dana Singiser, Karen Kornbluh, T. Alexander Aleinikoff, Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, Esther Olavarrian and Melody Barnes.

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women