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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 15, 2009

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## **A GOOD FIRST STEP FOR IMMIGRANTS**

### **Rep. Gutierrez Outlines Much-Needed Reforms to Fix the Nation's Broken Immigration System**

*Flanked by colleagues from across the country, Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) today introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity (CIR ASAP) Act, which aims to bring this country's immigration system in line with our economic and social needs. Below is a statement from Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center.*

“We applaud Rep. Gutierrez for his leadership in introducing much needed legislation that will improve the lives of millions of low-income immigrants and their families. This bill promises to put an end to the interminable waits immigrants face when attempting to reunite with loved ones and provides real solutions to streamline the immigration process. Such provisions are a major first step to fix a system that has for too long been a poster child for bureaucratic inefficiency.

“In particular, CIR ASAP recognizes that, by protecting the rights of immigrant workers when they assert their labor rights, we enhance all workers' rights. Ensuring that all workers have effective remedies for discrimination or retaliation will do much to end the unfair economic advantage that unscrupulous employers currently enjoy. Such provisions will strengthen this country economically and reflect our values for a system in which workers are treated fairly.

“We look forward to working with members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate to ensure the rights of immigrants -- as workers, family members, and members of our society -- are carefully considered within immigration reform proposals.”

Since 1979, the National Immigration Law Center has been dedicated to promoting and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants and their family members.

**For more information about how you can become an advocate for immigrant rights, please visit [www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)**

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