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# Procession and rally in L.A. demands restoration of immigration broken system



October 13, 6:07 PM LA Border and Immigration Examiner Aurelia Fierros

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Immigrant families, faith, civic and community leaders held a procession and rallied this Tuesday in Los Angeles in support of family unity and immigration reform legislation. Gathering in front of the Kenneth Hahn Administration Building downtown Los Angeles, participants called on Congress, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, and other key members of the Obama Administration to deliver on their promise of passing a just immigration reform bill.



Rallies for immigration reform across the nation, Tuesday Oct. 13, 2009. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin).

A simultaneous march was also held by the Justice for Immigrants Coalition of Inland Southern California, along with many other local residents and families, who rallied in front of San Bernardino City Hall in solidarity with U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez' official release of his principles for immigration reform in Washington D.C., hoping it will move forward in the House and Senate this fall towards passage early next year.

In Washington D.C., hundreds of families shared testimonies, held religious ceremonies and processions. More than 750 people traveled to Washington on busses from up and down the Eastern seaboard and as far away as Texas, Florida, and Michigan. They spent Tuesday meeting with Congressional offices before being joined by thousands of people from the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area who gathered on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol for a late afternoon program featuring the stories of families, veterans, and children who claim family disintegration because of immigration laws and deportation.

"Our families are the pillars of strength and the glue that holds together our community as well as any other community across this nation. What we ask is that Congress moves forward on a practical and realistic solution to the broken immigration system that is tearing our families apart. Based on last year's elections, we know Americans care about their families, neighbors, co-workers, and parishes impacted by the lack of action on this important issue," stated Angelica Salas, executive director for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA).

"Every day, a child wonders if she will ever see her parents again and parents worry about whether they will make it home tonight. 10% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are undocumented and thousands have waited for decades to be reunited with their loved ones," added EunSook Lee, executive director of National Korean American Services and Education Consortium (NAKASEC.) "In detention centers across the country, countless others are languishing behind bars. Immigration reform is the solution."

Representatives from the small business community along with more than 200 union members marched and chanted their support for immigration reform. Mike Garcia, president of SEIU United Service Workers West stated: "there are close to twelve million hard-working, undocumented workers in this country. As long as those workers are marginalized and vulnerable to exploitation from employers, all workers will be hurt by lower wages and standards. Now is the time for comprehensive immigration reform."

"We deserve humane and comprehensive reform. We call on Congress and the President to help us fix this broken system. Together we can make it happen," said Arturo Germano, executive director

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