



national network for immigrant and refugee rights

310 Eighth Street, Suite 303 | Oakland, California 94607 | 510.465.1984 | 510.465.1885 fax | nnirr@nnirr.org | www.nnirr.org

Support Fair and Genuine Immigration Reform That Respects the Rights of Immigrants

Stop Senator Specter's Immigration Proposal and HR 4437 from Becoming Law

We need an immigration program that provides legalization and access to permanent residency and citizenship, enforces labor protections for all workers, and includes more options for legal immigration. Our immigration policy must uphold the principles of human rights and community safety on the border and in the interior of the U.S. and ensure that immigrant workers have opportunities for economic equity.

The immigration proposals now being considered in Congress hold no promise of fairness in immigration policy and will undermine the rights, economic health and safety of all immigrants and their children. Congress needs to go back to the drawing board to come up with genuine, positive and fair proposals.

On Feb. 24, 2006, Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), who is Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, introduced his "Chairman's Mark," in the Senate. This bill, if passed in some form, could become the vehicle for negotiation in a House-Senate "conference committee" on a final immigration bill. The House of Representatives has already passed H.R. 4437, the "Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act" that had been introduced by Rep. Sensenbrenner and which is the most repressive anti-immigrant legislation in over a decade. The Senate Judiciary Committee is currently deliberating on the Specter proposal and may move the bill to the full Senate for consideration at the end of March.

Call or Fax Your Senators and Representative in Congress!

Urge them to oppose flawed and repressive legislation. Demand fair and genuine immigration reforms that:

- **Provide the opportunity for undocumented immigrants to legalize their status**
- **Expand avenues for legal immigration and support family reunification**
- **Provide access and options for permanent residency and citizenship**
- **Strengthen and enforce labor protections for all workers, both native and foreign born**
- **End immigration enforcement abuses at the U.S. border and interior.**

Contact your Senators' offices through the Senate switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

Toll Free: (888) 355-3588 (This toll free number may change without notice.)

Visit www.senate.gov and www.house.gov for your Senators and Representative contact information

Call (510) 465-1984 for more information or visit www.nnirr.org

More on the Specter Proposal and HR 4437...

The Specter bill includes many troubling and dangerous provisions that would undermine the rights of immigrants, establishing a pattern of “second class” status for immigrant workers and their families. This is not a good bill and cannot be adequately amended to set fair and just standards for immigration policy. The Specter proposal does not include a legalization program, has no meaningful protections for immigrant workers and, in fact, could fuel even more harsh exploitation of immigrant workers.

The Specter bill and H.R. 4437 are not a law, yet, and can be stopped. *You need to take immediate action. Call or fax your two Senators and Congressional Representative, tell them to oppose the Specter bill and H.R. 4437 **because you want fair immigration policies***

- The Specter bill and H.R. 4437 undermine our civil rights and liberties and further criminalize immigrants, making undocumented status a felony.
- Past and current guest worker or *bracero* programs have been rife with abuses and exploitation; they divide families and violate the workers’ labor and human rights.
- Undocumented immigrant workers and their families deserve a just and fair legalization program. Any immigration reform must guarantee our civil, labor and human rights and make the border safe for communities and migrants.
- The Specter bill and H.R. 4437 will continue pouring billions into a failed strategy and guarantee that migrant deaths continue to mount. Since 1994, U.S. border control and immigration enforcement has deliberately pushed migrants to cross through the most dangerous desert and mountainous regions where they risk their lives. According to a study by the non-partisan Public Policy Institute of California, the U.S. border control strategy has only caused more migrant deaths and failed to stem unauthorized border crossings. More than 4,000 migrant deaths have been recorded over the last ten years.
- The Specter bill provides a “report and deport” program: undocumented immigrants who have lived and worked in the U.S. as of January 2004 may qualify for a “conditional work authorization,” keeping them in their undocumented immigration status and deportable. They must register with the Dept. of Homeland Security and plead “guilty” to being in the U.S. unlawfully. Those who don’t report or don’t qualify can be deported. This status can last indefinitely, and sets up these vulnerable immigrant workers as “second class” members of our society.
- Neither HR 4437 nor the Specter bill provides for accountability in immigration enforcement and border control. They fail to provide services or address the backlog in any significant way. Every year tens of thousands of families are divided as loved ones have their constitutional rights trampled and suffer deportation. Hundreds of thousands more are detained and deported with impunity.