

WHY WE SAY NO TO SENATOR CHUCK SCHUMER'S PLAN ON IMMIGRATION

And What We Are Fighting For!

Statement from the May 1st Coalition
for Worker & Immigrant Rights

New York, New York

www.may1.info



**NO TO SCHUMER'S
ANTI-IMMIGRANT PLAN!**

NO TO ARIZONA'S SB 1070!

Historically, but especially since 2006, immigrants and their supporters have been justly demanding legalization for undocumented workers. The May 1st Coalition, which fights for worker and immigrant rights throughout the year, firmly believes that undocumented workers have earned legalization a hundred times over.

We will continue to fight for nothing less.

Millions have mobilized in the streets. Students have been forced to go on hunger strike for the Dream Act in pursuit of education. Yet Congress and the White House continue to ignore our demands. We are told instead that new elections will bring change yet the deportations and division of families continue. The over 12 million undocumented are tired of waiting for another election.

What has the lack of legislation resulted in? Instead of a national pro-immigrant policy we have state-sponsored immigration legislation such as vicious 287-G, which gives police and law officials the right to stop immigrants, resulting in the unleashing of anti-immigrant forces like Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The stalling in Congress means the continued creation of an underclass in the US leaving workers vulnerable to inexcusable abuse and exploitation, rights violation and modern day slavery; a horribly inhumane family visa backlog; the continued militarization of the border and treating immigration policy as an enforcement and security issue instead of a human and workers issue; and a continued forced migration due to US foreign policies such as NAFTA and CAFTA.

Most importantly, it has led to the racist criminalization of immigrants in Arizona with the cruel SB1070. This bill signed into law by Gov. Brewer is racial profiling in its most extreme and vicious form. The Arizona government also took away ethnic studies, sending a strong message to Latinos and all people of color that they are worthless!

The Schumer plan means more of the above, on a national scale. It essentially calls for consolidating the Homeland Security state. It proposes to: 1) further militarize border enforcement and interior enforcement; 2) build an effective labor control regime through a racist and anti-worker visa program, the E-Verify program and a biometric I.D. system; and 3) it will create a punitive path towards legalization for a relative handful of people. This "path towards legalization" is a trap ultimately designed to deport more people after a rigid and racist eight year screening process.

— — — — —
When Schumer was asked his opinion about Arizona's SB1070 he responded, "We believe our blueprint is even stronger than the Arizona senators' proposal in stopping the flow of illegal immigrants because our plan both increases border security and prevents employers from hiring illegal immigrants." Schumer's bill is an attempt to increase police state measures under the guise of immigration reform.
— — — — —

In short, the Schumer bill or REPAIR legislation proposes the same solutions proposed by the Sensenbrenner Bill in 2006. When Schumer was asked his opinion about Arizona's SB1070 he responded, "We believe our blueprint is even stronger than the Arizona senators' proposal in stopping the flow of illegal immigrants because our plan both increases border security and prevents employers from hiring illegal immigrants." Schumer's bill is an attempt to increase police state measures under the guise of immigration reform.

Our coalition guards against the formulation "comprehensive immigration reform" (CIR). CIR has become code-words for legislation we **do not** want. Even anti-immigrant forces call for CIR. Because CIR has come to mean militarization of the border, continued back log and so on.

What the May 1st Coalition is fighting for:

- immediate legalization for the undocumented,
- money for jobs, healthcare, education, housing for all workers, not war;
- end guest worker programs,
- no militarization of the border,
- no more NAFTA-like trade agreements anywhere in the world;
- Repeal SB1070 in Arizona
- Support Domestic Workers Rights; no human trafficking
- Justice for Climate Migrants; Open the borders
- Solidarity not racism.

No worker is illegal!