

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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Statement by AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney on **Senate Immigration Vote** June 28, 2007

Hard-working immigrant workers in this country deserve a real path to citizenship as a part of comprehensive immigration reform, and it is disappointing that this congress cannot advance that important goal.

The Senate's draft immigration plan was in need of major reconstruction work from the get-go. Unfortunately, as the bill was navigated through the legislative process it only got worse, becoming a bill that catered more to the interests of employers at the expense of both immigrant and US-born workers. Mounting anti-family and anti-worker provisions made the Senate's immigration bill unworkable and ultimately regressive in terms of immigrant and workers' rights. If approved, it would have only perpetuated the problems it intended to solve.

Comprehensive immigration reform must be done in a way that upholds workers' most basic rights and removes economic incentives for exploitation.

We will continue to work with the immigrant rights community and our allies in Congress to devise a truly comprehensive model that places immigrant and workers' rights at the head of the line.