

*Press Release*  
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**Businesses Urge Review and Consideration of Compromise Offered  
by Senators Martinez and Hagel**

The business community recognizes that there may not be enough votes to support the Committee Product and that negotiations need to be considered. In light of this fact, the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition (EWIC) supports the continuing negotiations regarding a compromise in process between Senators Martinez and Hagel and others. The business community understands the complexity and politics surrounding the issues and supports significant parts of this compromise. We need to allow this process to go forward. Though the compromise is not the perfect solution, it is a far better alternative than an enforcement only bill.

"It is critical for our national and economic security to fix this broken immigration system. Senators should be encouraged to create a compromise that establishes a workable path along the lines of the Committee Product," said Laura Reiff, an immigration attorney at Greenberg Traurig and EWIC co-chair.

"The Senate should take advantage of the general agreement in favor of comprehensive immigration reform and find consensus language around the Judiciary Committee's blueprint," said Randel Johnson, Vice President for Labor, Immigration, and Employee Benefits of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and an EWIC co-chair.

"It is important that the compromise is acceptable to Sen. Kennedy, otherwise it would certainly lose more Democratic votes than it gains," said EWIC co-chair John Gay, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy of the National Restaurant Association.

Negotiation and compromises are fluid and EWIC continues to urge the Senate to consider legislation that promotes our nation's values and:

- Provides for a temporary worker program by creating an efficient program that allows employers to recruit immigrant workers when U.S. workers can not be found;
- Provides qualified undocumented immigrants now in the country a way to earn legal status;
- Provides for increased national security and control of our nation's borders; and
- Creates a workable interior enforcement program that imposes effective, but fair, penalties for employers in violation of the new law.

The Essential Worker Immigrant Coalition (EWIC) is a broad-based coalition of national businesses and trade associations from across the industry spectrum concerned with the shortage of both semi-skilled and unskilled ("essential worker") labor. EWIC supports policies that facilitate the employment of essential workers by U.S. companies that are unable to find American workers. ([www.ewic.org](http://www.ewic.org))

For more information, contact EWIC co-chairs John Gay at (202) 331-5912, Laura Reiff at (703) 749-1372 and/or Randy Johnson at (202) 463-5448.