

## Immigration Bill Restarts Dialogue



By: Ashmar Mandou

In a strong push for immigration reform members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) joined more than 90 co-sponsors including members of the Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus to introduce the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity (CIR ASAP) Act of 2009, H.R. 4321, backed by Rep. Luis Gutierrez, chair of the CHC Immigration Task Force. "We stand together as cosponsors of this comprehensive immigration bill. I'm proud to be a member of a caucus that is leading the fight for real immigration reform," said Gutierrez during a press conference after introducing the bill.

CIR ASAP bill, presented to Congress on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, is another proposed solution to a continued polemic expressed by its opponents. "We can't be talking about human rights in other countries when we don't want to talk about it here," said Diana Alarcon, task force leader with Gamaliel of



**GMC, along with community leaders, rallied together to demonstrate their support for the proposed bill on immigration reform introduced by Rep. Luis Gutierrez last week. Its mission is to hold weekly prayer vigils with hopes to gather support from the bill's opponents. Last week the organization held a prayer vigil in front of the offices of Rep. Jesse Jackson and Rep. Bobby Rush. The rally included several community leaders including Father Gerardo from St. Donatus Church in Blue Island.**

Metro Chicago (GMC) and South Suburban Action Conference (SSAC). Gamaliel of Metro is the development of a new organizing cluster located on the Southwest side of Chicago. Its mission is recruiting community members committed to being agents of change.

CIR ASAP bill incorporates elements that align with the current social economic demands. Its primary tenets will be keeping families together by reducing visa backlogs

that cause painful separation, requiring those in the country illegally to pay a significant fine and begin the process of legalization, helping immigrant students achieve their dreams by allowing them to continue their education, and restoring fairness to our labor markets with worksite enforcement and worker protections. "The Comprehensive Immigration Reform will allow immigrants to have

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## Wishing All A Wonderful Christmas!

No matter where our loved ones may be for the holidays, we are always thinking of them. We will always say a prayer for those we know and love fighting in the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we are always thinking about friends and family who may not be at our dinner table for Christmas. They will always be in our hearts, and we hope to see them for future events and holidays. No matter where our readers are, we at the Lawndale News are always thinking about our loyal audience who have made this newspaper the success we have been and the cornerstone of the Latino community. We wish all of our readers, patrons and their families and loved ones a wonderful and safe Merry Christmas!

*Lawndale News*

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