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Interfaith Immigration Coalition Applauds President Obama's Commitment to Fixing America's Immigration Laws

WASHINGTON, DC – June 25, 2009 — The Interfaith Immigration Coalition, a partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting comprehensive immigration reform this year, thanks President Obama today for his commitment to advancing the conversation on immigration reform. Today's meeting at the White House is a clear signal that a bipartisan effort is underway to addressing our nation's broken immigration system.

People of faith across the country are looking for leadership on this issue from our elected officials and we eagerly await further actions on immigration reform. "We urge Congress and the President to make this a high legislative priority and commend those who have taken steps in this direction," stated Rev. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

"We applaud President Obama for his courage in highlighting immigration at this time when the public is consumed with the economy. Though there are those who see immigration as contributing to our economic problems, we see the hard work and dedication of immigrants as key to our economic success. We are gratified that the Administration sees immigration as a positive element in American society," announced Gideon Aronoff, President & CEO of Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

From the Institute Leadership Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas: "The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, along with many faith communities, minister daily with immigrants. We watch families being torn apart. Human rights are being denied. We stand behind President Obama's call for our political leaders to chart a new direction in immigration policy, one that benefits the common good."

Interfaith Immigration Coalition member organizations are deeply committed to the struggle for immigrants' rights, and many of our affiliated local faith communities are engaged in the movement to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Over the last two weeks, people of faith in more than 40 communities across the country have been gathering in anticipation of

President Obama's meeting today to pray for our elected leaders as they work to achieve reform. In the weeks and months to come the Interfaith Immigration Coalition will continue to rally grassroots support in the faith community for swift action on comprehensive immigration reform. We firmly stand with President Obama in efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform.

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About the Interfaith Immigration Coalition:

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) is a partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting comprehensive immigration reform that reflects our mandate to welcome the stranger and treat all human beings with dignity and respect.

For more information about the IIC and a list of member organizations, visit www.interfaithimmigration.org