



# League of United Latin American Citizens

State of Wisconsin

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***PRESS RELEASE***

**For Immediate Release:  
June 6, 2007**

## **LULAC-Wisconsin Calls for Changes in Senate Bill 1348 (*The Comprehensive Reform Act of 2007*)**

The League of United Latin American Citizens in Wisconsin (LULAC-Wisconsin) is pleased to see the intense focus placed on the comprehensive reform of our country's immigration laws. LULAC-Wisconsin continues to call for comprehensive immigration reform that not only secures our borders, but provides for our country's economic needs while remaining committed to the human rights and protections of the family upon which our great country was founded.

While it is understood that compromise by all sides will be necessary to gain passage of this noble endeavor, Senate Bill 1348 (s.1348) as originally submitted, goes far beyond compromise and reason.

LULAC-Wisconsin repeats it's demands for the following changes to s.1348:

1. **Family & Employment Based Immigration Policies** – The U.S. needs an immigration policy that is based on family re-unification and employment needs. Senate bill 1348 gives preferential treatment to the wealthy and educated over the family.
2. **Temporary Worker Program** – The United States needs a temporary worker program that provides the needed influx of labor (U.S. Department of Commerce estimates need at 1.2 million per year) and that also provides a pathway to permanent residency for those who work hard, obey the law and wish to stay.

Senate bill 1348 currently provides only 200,000 temporary worker visas. This is 1,000,000 short of stated requirements. If implemented as currently proposed, this bill will result in future flows of undocumented immigrants as well as accelerate investment by business outside of the United States in countries where sufficient levels of labor are available.

In addition, the bill as proposed will only provide a path to permanent residency for 1-2% of all temporary workers.

3. **Increase Number of Visas in Family Visa Categories** – The number of visas for family visa categories should be increased. Senate bill 1348 either eliminates or reduces the number of visas for the following four (4) family categories:

Adult children of U.S. citizens & permanent residents – ELIMINATED  
Brothers & sisters of U.S. citizens – ELIMINATED  
Parents of U.S. Citizens – REDUCED TO 40,000/YEAR  
Spouses & children of permanent residents –REDUCED TO 87,000/YEAR

4. **January 1, 2007 Acceptance Date** – Senate bill 1348 cancels all current applications for U.S. visas filed after May, 2005. The date should be changed in accordance with the date of the introduction of the bill.

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*“Advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans”*



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5. **Immediate Application of Family Re-unification for Legalizing Immigrants -** Immigrants participating in the Z Visa program should be allowed to immediately begin the application process to reunite their families in the United States. Senate bill 1348 would delay this process. Estimates vary between three to eight years.
6. **Local Application –** All processing of applications should be completed within the state in which the immigrant currently resides. The current bill would require the applicant (touchback) to apply in his or her country of origin.
7. **Reasonable Penalty & Application Fees –** Penalties and application fees should be reasonable. Senate bill 1348 includes penalties and fees that would be in excess of \$9,400. Excessive fees and penalties will discourage participation in the program and give rise to predatory lending practices.
8. **Continuance of Federal Authority over Immigration –** As decided in numerous court cases, the federal government is and should remain the sole authority on immigration. Senate bill 1348 would provide training and financial reimbursement for states and local municipalities for training on immigration law enforcement. If implemented this would destroy the relationships that currently exist before many of our emergency service agencies i.e. Police Department, Fire Department, Child Welfare Departments, etc., giving rise to crime and abuse.
9. **Laws Should Apply Equally For All –** Punishments for crimes should be administered equally. Senate bill 1348 would sharply increase penalties for undocumented immigrants over those of documented immigrants.

LULAC-Wisconsin encourages all Wisconsin residents to contact your Senators today and insist on these changes!

**Call today!**

Senator Russell Feingold (414) 276-7282

Senator Herbert Kohl (414) 297-4451

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 700 LULAC councils nationwide.

**For additional information:**

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