



NEWS

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SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, CLC

EMBARGOED UNTIL 3 pm

Monday, April 10, 2006

LOCAL 32BJ PLAYS LEADING ROLE IN NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Coalition of Immigrant Rights, Business and Labor Groups Call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Union Says Broken Immigration System Hurts All Workers

New York, NY – Thousands of Local 32BJ union members are joining today’s April 10th National Day of Action for Immigrant Rights events to stand up for comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship for undocumented workers. Of the more than 100 events in 75 cities nationwide, 32BJ members – who are mostly immigrant workers – are playing a leading role at 6 events in the northeast, including New York City.

“Today’s National Day of Action shows that immigrants and their supporters, including business groups and labor unions, agree that comprehensive immigration reform is urgently need to fix our broken immigration system,” said Mike Fishman, Local 32BJ President, at a rally outside City Hall. “The current immigration system makes it too difficult for hard-working, taxpaying immigrants to earn citizenship and too easy for shady employers to exploit these same workers, which drives down standards for all working people.”

Local 32BJ called on Congress to enact legislation that will ensure a better, brighter future for all working people and spoke out against anti-immigrant proposals such as HR 4437 – the Sensenbrenner bill. Many legislators calling for harsh, anti-immigrant proposals have a poor voting record on worker rights issues. For example, HR 4437 sponsor Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-MN) and Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO) each voted against job training programs and against holding Wal-Mart accountable for child labor violations. Together with Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN), they all voted against raising the minimum wage.

“Our union is calling on Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform that respects the rights of immigrants, defends fair working standards for native born and foreign born workers, and recognizes their economic and cultural contributions to our country,” said Hector Figueroa, Local 32BJ Secretary-Treasurer.

Local 32BJ supports comprehensive immigration reform and calls for a bipartisan solution that: creates a controlled, orderly process allowing immigrants to come to work while protecting the wages and standards of all workers; provides a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who work hard and pay taxes; enhances border security and reduces illegal immigration; reunites families; and promotes citizenship and civic participation.

Local 32BJ represents more than 85,000 property service workers, the majority of who are immigrant workers, in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC. Visit www.seiu32bj.org for more information. For more information about nationwide events, visit www.april10.org.