

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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June 18, 2007

Dear Senator:

I am writing to express the AFL-CIO's strong opposition to the Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Reform Act of 2007 (S.1348) and our deepening concern that senators will not be allowed to address its many shortcomings if and when the Senate resumes consideration of the bill.

Comprehensive immigration reform should provide an opportunity for the current undocumented population to earn a path towards legal status, and it should uphold long-standing U.S. policy favoring the reunification of families. In addition, it should limit the size and scope of guest worker programs so that the presence of hundreds of thousands of temporary workers in permanent jobs does not drive down wages, benefits, and health and safety protections.

Unfortunately, S.1348 fails each of these tests. It is riddled with provisions that attack family immigration by eliminating whole categories of family preferences. It massively expands exploitive guest worker programs. And it creates almost insurmountable obstacles for the millions of undocumented immigrants it aims to bring out of the shadows.

Unfortunately, this bill is far from the kind of comprehensive immigration reform that would improve the situation of either U.S.-born or foreign-born workers or their families. We urge you to oppose any effort to enact S. 1348.

Sincerely,


John J. Sweeney
President

JJS/WS/mrt

