

**Washington, DC** - Congressman Charles Gonzalez issued the following statement on the announcement of a comprehensive immigration reform proposal in the United States Senate:

"Comprehensive immigration reform is imperative to our nation's security and prosperity. The Senate's proposal, while not perfect, is a significant step in the right direction and their work should be commended.

"In order to properly solve our nation's broken immigration system, we must agree to tackle every aspect of this issue in its entirety while accounting for the vital role immigrants play in our nation's economy. Our immigration system needs to work for employers and employees, observe the laws of our land, and secure our borders.

"Concurrently, we must deal with approximately twelve million undocumented immigrants already residing in the US in a sensible and reasonable manner. This will require a realistic plan to deal with this community by putting individuals on a path towards citizenship, but only after assessing fines and penalties and implementing strict guidelines that must be met and upheld over a significant period of time. I'm proud that the Senate's proposal provides for these key provisions.

"It's irrational to think that our country can round up approximately twelve million undocumented immigrants and show them to the door, especially in light of the vital role this community plays in our nation's economy. We need a comprehensive solution, for in the absence of one, we're doomed to repeat the mistakes of our current system. We must now capitalize on a historic opportunity to arrive at a solution, and I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in addressing this issue with the hard work and dedication that it will require."