



Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 3, 2007

Contact: Alvaro Huerta, CHIRLA, 213.210.6735

Brenda Perez, RISE, 510.684.2225

“WE NEED IMMIGRATION REFORM, *FAST!*”

Students Refuse to Give Up Hope, Launch Statewide Fast for Immigration Reform

What: **Students and youth** are participating in a **week-long fast** aimed at urging the California congressional delegation to move forward immigration reform that includes legal residency and a path to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of undocumented youth. The fast continues today, July 3rd, and organized events are taking place in both Pasadena and San Francisco.

When & Where: **DAY 2- July 3rd:** Join us on the second day of our week-long fast and take the voice of immigrant youth and their allies directly to **Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi**.

Program:

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Letter signing, call-in action phone calls, community education

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.: Rally

1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: Letter signing, call-in action phone calls, community education

All events will take place at:

Civic Center Plaza (across from City Hall)

99 Grove Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

Who: Several students and youth, parents, school administrators, as well as education and immigration advocates. **Twenty-four participants across the state** have signed up to fast for a full week, with dozens more supporting the fast. Fasters will be visiting the offices of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and will be joined by prominent community leaders.

Why: Students across California will lead the way for the rest of the nation as they bring attention to the plight of thousands of talented, undocumented youth who graduate from high school and college each year with little hope of attaining higher education or a job once out of school. With the Senate recently failing to move forward a viable immigration reform bill, their dreams remain out of reach and hang on a string. Now their hopes move to the House of Representatives where Congressional leaders still have an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership by finding just, humane and workable immigration reform solutions. Students and youth are also paying close attention to the closely related DREAM Act – which would allow undocumented students who meet certain requirements to obtain legal residency – which has been stalled for years by politics, though it remains widely supported by many members of Congress. Youth will participate in the fast across the state in order to make sure that students’ voices are included in the debate and that Congress and the President take action to pass just and humane immigration reform this year.

###

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) was formed in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles, promote harmonious multi-ethnic and multi-racial human relations and through coalition-building, advocacy, community education and organizing, empower immigrants and their allies to build a more just society.