



# Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 3, 2007

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### DAY 2

## “WE NEED IMMIGRATION REFORM, *FAST!*”

### Students Caravan from Santa Ana to Pasadena, Continue 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, and organized events are taking place in Pasadena, Bakersfield and San Francisco.

**When & Where:** **DAY 2- July 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Join us on the second day of our week-long fast to take the voice of immigrant youth and their allies directly to **Congress Member Adam Schiff** as we urge him to be a leader in the struggle for just and humane immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

Program:

**12:00 p.m.: Press Conference**

**2:00 p.m.: March to Memorial Park**

2:45 p.m.: Entertainment (poetry, street theatre, student testimonials)

6:00 p.m.: Caravan leaves for Bakersfield

All events will take place at:

Representative Adam Schiff's District Offices

87 N. Raymond Avenue,

Pasadena CA 91103

**Who:** Several students and youth, parents, 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. **Twelve** of those fasters are from Southern California.

**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. **The fast has already garnered attention from MSNBC Bakersfield affiliate KGET, Radio Campesina 92.5 FM, the Los Angeles Times, CNN en Español, KRCA 62, KAZA 54, Fox 11, Hoy Newspapers, Mexico's El Universal, and many more.**

**Visuals:** Rally outside of Congress Member Schiff's office with colorful banners, students in graduation gowns, and entertainment for fast participants and supporters.

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## Updates from the Fasters: Day 1

*Statewide Fast for Immigration Reform: Update 7/2/07*

At the end of the first day, there are two delegations reporting from the field: Bakersfield and Santa Ana.

### Bakersfield Delegation

Carlos Gomez, Bakersfield College; Paul Fernandez, Bakersfield College; Joanna Parra, Bakersfield College; Chris Garza, Bakersfield College; Adelina Rangel, Cal-State Bakersfield.

"At 5:00 a.m. we debated with Jim Lopez, state chairman for the California Republican National Hispanic Assembly, followed by an interview at 1:00 with MSNBC affiliate KGET, and are looking forward to more interviews at 3:30 p.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Tomorrow we are VERY excited to be interviewed live on Radio Campesina 92.5 FM at 4:00 pm and have the same interview play again on 103.9 FM "Play" station in Bakersfield. This is an historical event that that's going to empower people to take action and we hope others will join us in this endeavor to further educate the nation. Brothers and Sisters fasting, hang in there! We're with you in spirit!" - *Carlos Gomez, Bakersfield College*

"The word is getting around the community. We're doing something really positive. I'm normally used to eating every three hours - 5 meals a day, which means I should be on my 3rd meal by now...But I feel good about this, especially that we are doing this all together." - *Paula Fernandez, Cal-State Bakersfield*

### Santa Ana Delegation:

"Early in the morning we received a blessing at St. Boniface Church. By ten in the morning we were at Congresswoman's Loretta Sanchez' office. A delegation went into the office. The staff was not especially welcoming but ultimately allowed three students from Orange County to meet with the District representative, Raul Luna. Raul Luna was very aggressive with the fasters, threatening to call the police, stating that he did not appreciate the students' approach. He also said that Congresswoman Sanchez would unequivocally NOT support the DREAM Act as she felt it was exclusive to students and she cares much more about immigration reform. None of Sanchez' staff came out to greet the fasters. Later we marched from one to two in downtown Santa Ana. About sixty students marched, mostly dressed in caps and gowns. Several media outlets came out to report on the event, including the LA Times, CNN en Español, Channels 54, 62, and Fox 11, as well as print reporters from the LA Times, Hoy, and Mexico City's most famous newspaper - El Universal. The fasters are pretty tired; they're sitting and sleeping under two canopies at this moment, but the mood is upbeat. SEIU from the City of Orange as well as other Orange County organizations came out to show support. There is a lot of singing and live drumming and guitar playing, everyone supporting one another." - *Horacio Arroyo, Santa Monica College*

"There is a lot of energy. When your heart is into something you really want, your body can keep going. Our hunger for food is bad, but our hunger for justice is worse."

-*Berenice Bautista, Woodrow Wilson High, 15 years old*

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