



Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DAY 3

“WE NEED IMMIGRATION REFORM, *FAST!*”

Students Fasters Arrive in Bakersfield, Celebrate Independence Day

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 4th, and organized events are taking place in Bakersfield, San Jose and San Francisco.

When & **DAY 3- July 4th:**

Where: Join us on the third day of our week-long fast when the caravan arrives in **Bakersfield**, we mourn the loss of a millions of American Dreams, and celebrate the struggle for the dream of Independence on the 4th of July.

Program:

10:00 a.m.: Fast Site set up

12:00 p.m.: Statewide Moment of Silence for the millions of dreams killed due to the lack of immigration reform. Release of 12 red, white, and blue balloons simultaneously in Bakersfield, San Jose and San Francisco.

2:00 p.m.: **Guest Speaker, Dolores Huerta**

3:00-6:00 p.m.: Community Activities

All events will take place at:

Heritage Park

2320 Mt. Vernon

Bakersfield, CA 93306

Who: Several students, 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.

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 media attention from the San Francisco Chronicle, MSNBC Bakersfield affiliate KGET, Radio Campesina 92.5 FM, KPFK 90.7 FM, the Los Angeles Times, the Chinese Daily News, La Opinion, the San Jose Mercury News, KSCI 18, CNN en Español, KMEX 34, Singtao Daily, the China Press, KRCA 62, KAZA 54, KTTV 11, FOX News, Hoy Newspapers, Metro Networks, Mexico’s El Universal, and many more.**

Visuals: Colorful banners, students in graduation gowns, and release of 12 red, white, and blue balloons simultaneously in Bakersfield, San Jose and San Francisco at 12:05 p.m.

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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.



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Updates from the Fasters: Day 2

Pasadena, 7/3/07

After nearly 40 hours of fasting, the students are tired and hungry, but their resolve remains strong. This morning they met with a representative from the Hon. Adam Schiff's office, who told them the great news that **Rep. Schiff has signed on as a co-sponsor for the DREAM Act!**

At noon, they were joined by community leaders and allies for a sidewalk march.



The march ended with a press conference, in which they thanked Rep. Schiff for his support and asked him to fight for reform for their parents as well. This afternoon they were joined by Danza Azteca, who came out to Memorial Park in a show of solidarity with the fasters. The mood was upbeat as they packed up to begin their caravan to the next stop, Bakersfield.

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Faster Profile: Cynthia C.



Age: 17

School: Fairfax High School, graduate

Why I am fasting:

I came to this country 15 years ago. I've grown up in Los Angeles with my two older sisters. I have decided to fast for this whole week because I want to show my strong support for the DREAM Act. It has been too long and our dreams cannot wait any longer!

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