

### Chicagoans hold prayer vigil for immigration reform

<http://www.fristlight.cn> 2007-05-25

[作者] ABC Inc.,WLS-TV Chicago

[单位] ABC Inc., WLS-TV Chicago

[摘要] May 17, 2007 - A political deal was hammered out on immigration reform Thursday by congressional leaders from both parties in Washington. The bill is expected to get the backing of President Bush.

[关键词] immigration reform

May 17, 2007 -

A political deal was hammered out on immigration reform Thursday by congressional leaders from both parties in Washington. The bill is expected to get the backing of President Bush.

The overhaul includes a point system that would prioritize immigrants' education and skill-levels over family connections in deciding how to award green cards.

Immigration reform, no doubt, is the result of community activism like the marches and vigils held Thursday in Chicago. While people in Chicago community are excited about the possibility of reform, some caution that it is important to pay attention to the needs of the community. As Little Village residents began a 24-

hour prayer vigil Thursday, their prayers for legislation may have been answered already in Washington, D.C. Following a year of big marches and lots of discussion, immigration reform may finally become reality.

"The biggest thing I would take with us is we are going to give life to these folks and legalize millions and millions of folks that are working illegally, working on the underground economy," said Ald. George Cardenas of the 12th Ward.

Many say the timing couldn't have been better considering the census figures show one in three Americans is a minority.

"The figures would show a greater proportional of foreign-

born and recent immigration, particularly more recent immigration from Mexico and Latin America demonstrate the need for this," said Prof. Susan Gzesh of the University of Chicago.

The tentative deal would offer the nation's 12 million undocumented workers a route to legal status, while satisfying many Republican requests to secure the borders. The plan calls for a point system where skills and education levels would be taken into account.

"It's something we've been living with, though not entirely successfully, since 1965, as the basic structure of how we deal with permanent residents," said Gzesh.

Despite the deal Chicago's Hispanic community says work is not over.

"Even though we pass immigration reform, we have to go through the process and make sure that the system doesn't abuse them, that they don't fall through the cracks," said Ald. Ricardo Munoz of Chicago's 22nd Ward.

It's important to pay attention to the details of the bill because, the alderman said, after the 1986 immigration reform bill, there was lots of abuse, and he wants to make sure that doesn't happen again.

Thursday's immigration reform bill is verbal currently and has not been voted on, but it probably will become reality. It has the backing of both parties and the president.

