Work Permits for All - H.J.R. 69

Summary: Urges the President of the United States to authorize the establishment of a parole and work authorization program for long-term immigrant workers who are undocumented and residing in Illinois to address this State’s critical need for labor and to secure the lives of tens of thousands of mixed status families in Illinois.

The U.S. is experiencing a unprecedented labor shortage affecting numerous sectors of the economy including leisure & hospitality, healthcare, and education.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Illinois has on average, **76 available workers for every 100 jobs**.

Many immigrants who are undocumented and living in IL possess the skills to fill critical jobs, but lack official work authorization (work permits)*.

There are over 400,000 immigrants who are undocumented in Illinois. The working segment of this population **contributes $1.5 billion in taxes per year**.

Granting work permits will provide a significant public benefit to the IL economy.

Shifts from the informal to the formal workforce, combined with wage gains, and increased taxes paid by newly permitted workers equals **increased revenue for the state**.

A work permit would lessen the power of unscrupulous employers to take advantage of our lowest-wage workers, who are **overrepresented by workers of color and immigrant workers**.

"If every unemployed person in the country found a job, we would still have 3 million open jobs." - U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Key Terms & Definitions
- **Parole** - Under U.S. Immigration law, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can grant “parole” to certain noncitizens to temporarily remain in the United States and apply for a work permit. It is usually granted for humanitarian reasons.
- **Significant public benefit** - A type of parole that is typically used to allow noncitizens to appear for and participate in a civil or criminal legal proceeding in the United States.
- **Formal workforce** - Refers to jobs that have specific hours and fixed wages.

*IL cannot authorize federal work permits.
## Supporters

### Organizations & Unions
- The Resurrection Project
- Latino Policy Forum
- Southwest Organizing Project
- Hispanic Federation
- American Business Immigration Coalition
- Chicago Teachers Union
- Chicago Community and Workers Rights
- Enlace Chicago
- Chicago Workers Collaborative
- Erie Neighborhood House
- Instituto del Progreso Latino
- Chicago Workers Collaborative
- Centro de Trabajadores Unidos
- Centro Romero
- Northwest Center
- Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
- Palenque LSNA
- Farmworkers and Landscapers Advocacy Project (FLAP)
- Children's Legal Center
- Mujeres Latinas en Accion
- Binational Institute for Human Development
- Partners for Our Communities
- Healthy Hood
- Western Illinois Dreamers
- North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
- Illinois Workers in Action
- Family Focus
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Warehouse Workers for Justice
- Metropolitan Family Services
- Greater Chicago Legal Clinic
- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS)
- Migrant and Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project
- Alianza Americas
- Hispanic-American Community Education and Services
- NAIMA and Mexico en el Corazon
- Chicago Commons
- Unite Here
- Illinois Legal Aid Online
- HANA Center
- Illinois Unidos
- Rincon Family Services
- Arden Shore Child and Family Services
- Latino Union of Chicago
- Association House
- The Immigration Project
- Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana
- Spanish Community Center
- Carole Robertson Center for Learning
- ALMAS- Alliance of Latinos Motivating Action in the Suburbs
- Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- scaleLIT
- St. Joseph Services
- El Valor
- Casa Central
- Center for Changing Lives
- PASO - West Suburban Action Project
- United African Organization
- National Coalition for Latinx with Disabilities
- UnidosUS
- Barakah Consulting Services
- La Casa Norte
- Illinois Latino Agenda
- Illinois Venezuelan Alliance
- OAI Inc.
- Equality Illinois
- Indo-American Center
- LARES IIC
- Mobile Migrant Health Team
- Community Organizing and Family Issues

### Faith-based
- Rev. Beth Brown, Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church
- Faith Community Initiative, Chicago
- Rabbi Lizz Heydemann, Mishkan Chicago
- Pastor Matt DeMateo, CEO, New Life Centers of Chicagoland
- Rev. Stephen Thurston, New Covenant Baptist Church

### Associations
- Sam Tola, President and CEO, Illinois Restaurant Association
- Sam Sanchez, Founder and CEO, Third Coast Hospitality; Former Chairman, Illinois Restaurant Association
- Mark Denzler, President and CEO, Illinois Manufacturers’ Association
- Lou Sandoval, President and CEO, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
- Jack Lavin, President and CEO, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Rob Karr, President & CEO, Illinois Retail Merchants Association
- Sarah Shupenus, Executive Director, Illinois Retail and Merchants Association
- Adrian Rodriguez, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

### Elected Officials
- County Commissioner Anthony Quezada
- County Commissioner Alma Anaya
- County Commissioner Maggie Trevor
- Alderperson Andre Vasquez, 40th Ward
- Alderman Gilbert Villegas, 35th Ward
- Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez, 25th Ward
- Alderman Michael Rodriguez, 22nd Ward
- Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, 35th Ward
- Alderman Daniel La Spata, 1st Ward
- Alderwoman Jeylú B. Gutiérrez, 14th Ward
- Alderman William E. Hall, 6th Ward

Compiled by the Latino Policy Forum, May 2024