

CIIC News and Updates

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Dear Reader,

In an encouraging move last week DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said she believes that we need comprehensive immigration reform. She said that "If we are truly going to fix a broken system, Congress will have to act".

There are also encouraging signs that will see some action on this issue from Congress. Luiz Gutierrez has promised to introduce a bill in December, Senator Schumer is working with a variety of different groups to write legislation and he plans to introduce it in the Senate in the New Year. This Senate legislation will be followed by legislation in the house.

It is very important that Senators and Representatives hear from Irish and Irish American constituents who support positive immigration reform. Congress and the Administration have indicated that they will act so it is up to our communities to do our part to ensure that the negative partisan politics that have been the hallmark of the debate so far are replaced with a civil dialogue that examines the problem and comes up with a sensible and considered solution.

As we approach the holiday season it is important to remember those members of our community who cannot be with their families and to resolve to seek change so that next year they can all celebrate together.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Sheila

Be Counted in 2010

Every 10 years the U.S. conducts a census that aims to count everyone who is living in the United States regardless of their legal status or citizenship. The census data is used to inform policy decisions and determine allocation of funding for public projects.

To ensure that funds are allocated where they are needed it is important to ensure that everyone is counted. Non-profit

organizations will play an important role in ensuring that immigrants who may be reluctant to come forward are included in 2010. Organizations can keep up with the latest census news and access helpful resources to help them to engage their community in the count by signing up with their Regional Census Office at www.NonprofitsCount.org

RTE Prime Time

Recently RTE's Prime Time did a piece on Emigration that is well worth watching. Siobhan Lyons from the Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia did an excellent job. You can see the program on RTE at: http://www.rte.ie/news/2009/1112/primetime_av.html

Immigration Reform - Update

Last week was a good one for the Reform Immigration for America Campaign. They hosted a telephonic town hall, featuring Congressman Luis Gutierrez, that was very successful. In conjunction with the call the Campaign organized 1,009 house parties in 45 states. More than 60,000 called in, joined house parties, or listened to live radio broadcasts.

America's Voice have released a video of Rep. Gutierrez introducing his principles of immigration reform and calling everyone to action. To view the video, [click here](#).

Kennedy Memorial Mass

The Irish Community in New York gathered to remember the life of Senator Ted Kennedy on November 12 at a Mass that was organized by the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and the Brehon Law Society. It was attended by Ted Kennedy Jr. who delivered a moving tribute to his father.

Speaker of New York City Council, Christine Quinn and Irish Consul General Niall Burgess were among those present at Holy Trinity Church on the Upper West Side. Check out the Irish Central article on their [website](#)

Money for Visas Scam

The Diversity Visa Lottery continues to be a target of Internet scam artists. Irish Centers are reporting calls for immigrants who have spent hundreds of dollars in a desperate attempt to get a visa. The CIIC is again warning everyone to beware.

Time is short - the DV-2011 Lottery will end at Noon EST on November 30, 2009.

As the DV lottery application period approaches the end stay vigilant and take steps to safeguard your money, your personal information and your DV lottery entry.

- Call an [Irish Immigration Center](#) before applying
- Know that this is an on line application and there is no charge to apply.
- Look for the .gov suffix on US government websites [The official DV Lottery website](#)
- Read the DV-2011 instructions on the [Department of State website](#)

Please forward this email to warn friends and family about the host of immigration scams that are out there.

H1N1 Reminder

The H1N1 flu season is in full swing and many local health departments will be making the H1N1 vaccine available at local health clinics. Because there are limited supplies of 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine only certain groups are being offered the vaccination at this time. As additional supplies of vaccine are made available it is hoped that anyone who wants to will be able to receive it. Currently, in most areas, the vaccine is available to:

Pregnant women; Anyone 4 years through 24 years of age; Persons 25 through 64 years of age who have underlying health conditions that increases risk of severe illness or complications; Anyone who lives with or cares for children less than 6 months old.

Please check with your local [Irish Center](#) to find a flu clinic near you.

ICE Announces 1,000 New Workplace Audits

On Thursday, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Assistant Secretary John Morton announced 1,000 new workplace audits for businesses suspected of hiring workers without proper employment

documentation, which involves a comprehensive review of each employer's hiring records and I-9 forms. Although ICE is withholding the businesses' names and locations until the audit is complete, ICE cited "investigative leads and intelligence" as well as the "business connection to public safety and national security" as reasons these businesses were targeted. Businesses are advised to cooperate with the audit and to call a reliable immigration attorney as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sheila Gleeson
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers

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