

U.S. Senator

TOM HARKIN OF IOWA



<http://harkin.senate.gov>

(202) 224-3254

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Statement of Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)

On the Five-Year Anniversary of the Raid on the Agriprocessors, Inc. Plant in Postville

“Sunday marks the five-year anniversary of the mass arrests at Agriprocessors, Inc., in Postville. The tragedy at Postville has highlighted the harsh reality that our current immigration system is unworkable and unacceptable. The status quo has trapped some 11 million undocumented immigrants in a lawless limbo, and has allowed unscrupulous employers to operate a shadow economy based on exploitation and law-breaking. Postville exemplified a system that is broken and in need of urgent reform.

“I am pleased that President Obama has demonstrated a strong commitment to accountable, comprehensive immigration reform and that a group of my colleagues responded by proposing legislation to do that. I hope to work constructively with my colleagues and improve this proposal so we can create a new immigration system that is fair to American workers and taxpayers and offers a practical, humane solution to the reality that millions of undocumented immigrants and their families are within our borders.

“I also salute the Obama Administration and the Department of Homeland Security for implementing deferred action for childhood arrivals, better known as DACA. In a time of increasingly tight budgets, it is necessary to put our resources where they’re actually needed rather than punishing children and pushing undocumented immigrants further into the shadows.”

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