

March 30, 2017

## **TRUMP BUDGET TARGETS COUNTRY'S MOST VULNERABLE WORKERS**

*The International Labor Recruitment Working Group (ILRWG) issued the following statement in response to President Donald Trump's 2018 budget proposal:*

President Trump's budget proposal reflects a disturbing disregard for basic worker protections and disdain for immigrants and non-immigrant guestworkers, who are especially vulnerable to wage theft, debt bondage, forced labor and other forms of human trafficking, unsafe working conditions, and retaliation when they exercise their basic rights. Failing to protect the workplace rights of immigrant workers lowers standards for all workers, and demonstrates a clear lack of respect for the dignity and value that workers add to our economy and our communities.

The president's budget would eliminate funding for the Legal Services Corporation, which provides critical services for vulnerable groups in America, including migrant farmworkers and victims of human trafficking. Immigrant workers rely heavily on these services to get fair compensation in case of accidents or injuries, to address workplace abuses, and to respond to other injustices.

The proposed budget also slashes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), in particular eliminating Susan Harwood grants that have provided critical occupational safety and health education to workers, including people working in some of the country's most hazardous jobs.

On top of these damaging cuts, the president would also slash Department of Labor and Department of State funding, severely weakening the already-insufficient enforcement of workplace abuse protections for all working people. Beyond all of the harmful cuts in President Trump's budget, there is also a glaring lack of investment in programs that are critically important to protect all workers, and immigrant and guest workers in particular, including whistleblower protection for workers who speak out against employer abuse and exploitation, and programs that prioritize the unification of migrant families.

Meanwhile, President Trump proposes a seven percent increase for the Department of Homeland Security to expand a wall along the nation's southern border and hire more federal agents to catch and deport undocumented immigrants. Shifting money away from worker protection programs in favor of border and immigration enforcement will harm all workers in the



United States. When viewed alongside the current broken international labor recruitment system – which leaves hundreds of thousands of men and women extremely vulnerable to workplace abuse, debt bondage and human trafficking – the president’s budget sends a particularly chilling message to immigrant and guestworkers in the United States.

###

*The International Labor Recruitment Working Group (ILRWG) is an alliance of organizations across labor sectors that works alongside internationally-recruited workers, analyzes labor markets and economic conditions, and advocates for all working people in this country.*

**Media Contact:**

Evy Peña

[evy@cdmigrante.org](mailto:evy@cdmigrante.org)

(410) 783-0236

[www.fairlaborrecruitment.wordpress.com](http://www.fairlaborrecruitment.wordpress.com)