DHS Enforcement Initiative – Bold Move that Could Help Pave Way for Immigration Reform

(Washington, July 8) – The Department of Homeland Security announced today that it would rescind the Social Security No Match Rule while pushing ahead with E-Verify – moving to make that program more effective and requiring it for companies that do business with the federal government. Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA, a national federation of pro-immigration employers, issued the following statement:

"This is a bold move. It's sure to be controversial - Secretary Napolitano is sure to come under attack from all sides of the immigration debate. But being attacked from all sides is often a sign that you're doing something right, and this is a shrewd, balanced policy initiative to be welcomed by anyone who wants to see more effective immigration enforcement in the workplace.

"Employers welcome effective enforcement. They welcome DHS's efforts to improve E-Verify. Make no mistake - there's still plenty of room for improvement. And ultimately any worksite enforcement has to be accompanied by immigration reform that provides a way for the workers America needs for future economic growth to enter the country legally. The best antidote to illegal immigration is still a legal immigration system that works.

"But employers are heartened to see Secretary Napolitano move ahead in a balanced way to make workplace enforcement more focused and effective.

"That's important for its own sake and it's critical in restoring public confidence in the immigration system and paving the way for comprehensive immigration reform."

ImmigrationWorks USA president Tamar Jacoby is available for interview and can be reached directly at 973-744-6117

ImmigrationWorks USA is a national business federation advocating immigration policy that works for employers, workers and citizens. It links 25 state-based coalitions of employers and trade groups from every sector that relies on immigrant workers. IW assists these groups with intelligence, messaging and grassroots recruitment as they fight for better immigration law, both in their states and in Washington. IW’s goal: to mobilize a national business grassroots constituency – the constituency that was missing during the 2006 and 2007 debates over immigration reform. IW receives support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association, American Farm Bureau, the American Hotel and Lodging Association, the National Association of Home Builders, the US Travel Association and other leading trade groups. Its board of directors includes former U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, former AZ Rep. Jim Kolbe and Bill Marriott, chairman and CEO of Marriott International, among others.