

*Transcript: CHC Press Conference on the Farm Workforce Modernization Act
As delivered on Thursday, March 18th*

Congressman Salud Carbajal from the great Central Coast.

Thank you Representative Costa.

Let me start by thanking a few people that really have brought us here.

First, I want to thank Dr. Ruiz for organizing today's event but the two authors of these two important bills worked extremely hard to get us here and I want to recognize Representative Lofgren and Representative Roybal-Allard for getting us here.

and let's face it - nothing happens here without leadership.

Not only from the individuals I mentioned but from our extraordinary Speaker, Nancy Pelosi.

I want to thank them for getting us here - thank you very much.

I'm the son of a farmworker.

Many of summers I toiled in the fields with my father.

I know firsthand the hard work of farmworkers.

I also happen to represent a district where the number one industry is agriculture.

So making sure our farmworkers are taken care of and that our farmers have the tools and the assistance they need to prosper is of the utmost importance to me.

This is personal to me.

Many of these immigrants, be it Dreamers or farmworkers, come to this country to live the American Dream.

Come to ensure that their kids have a better way of life.

Some of them even become Members of Congress.

So today is a good day for America.

These bills are bipartisan.

We have bipartisan Members of Congress that have come together and a diverse group of stakeholders especially for the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

This is a bill that is historic when you consider all of the groups that came together to make it happen.

Today's an important day to not just take all that our country and our economy has been taking from immigrants - their essential work to keep America working - but recognizing them and giving them back that benefit to live that American Dream in this country that they came here for.

Thank you very much.