

Marchers rally for action on reform

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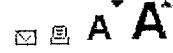
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Nearly 200 people marched in Newark's Lincoln Park on Friday, demanding immigration reform that would allow illegal immigrants a path to citizenship, at one of dozens of May Day marches held around the country.



CARMINE GALASSO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nearly 200 rallied for immigrants' rights, marching from Newark's Lincoln Park along Broad Street to the federal building, carrying signs and shouting "Yes, we will!"

As they walked the park's perimeter, the marchers chanted, "Yes we can," "Yes we will" and "Congress listen, we're going to fight." They held signs reading "Reform not raids" and "Ningun ser humano es ilegal," or "No human being is illegal."

"We would like to see reform to let people stay, to let people who are here have the opportunity to be legal," said Carmen Salabarieta of Angels in Action, a group that helps Hispanic people in Plainfield. "We're talking about people who have been here for years, so that they can work and support their families."

The people there hope President Obama is able to agree with Congress on comprehensive immigration reform. The prospects of such a package passing are unclear.

Marchers included workers, members of the property services union Local 32BJ, and members of immigration advocacy groups such as the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network. Trailing the group were men and women pushing two dozen pushcarts used to sell ices in the street.

"'Yes we can' is over!" yelled Shai Goldstein, executive director of the New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, citing the phrase that gained attention during Obama's campaign. " 'Yes we will' in 2009 have immigration reform, an end to raids, and comprehensive health care reform that respects the humanity of everyone!"