



In This Issue

- ICO Leaders travel to DC for Health Care Reform
- Health Care/Immigration Action Planned
- ICO leaders continue work on foreclosure crisis

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Los Angeles Foreclosure Ordinance Information

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ICO Leaders Travel to DC for PICO National Network Health Care Reform Push

ICO leaders travel to Washington, DC, next week to join PICO National Network leaders from across the country to lobby our federal representatives to pass meaningful health care reform.

Comprehensive health care reform could be a reality in the next few months, and the voice of the faith community could play a key role in shaping what is passed. In addition to our work on housing and homelessness, Greater Long Beach ICO - as part of the PICO National Network - has been working for the last 10 year on expanding health care coverage. Last year, ICO joined PICO as faith community representatives and played a key role in passing the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

There are a of important elements to comprehensive health reform that need to be addressed - including cost containment, funding sources and how decisions are made on levels of care. One common theme of all the proposals is requiring everyone to have health insurance. If we are mandating health insurance, we need to establish affordability standards. Leaders from ICO and other PICO organizations, along with national religious leaders are focusing on creating realistic affordability standards.

In addition to the DC action, ICO is planning other efforts this summer to push our legislators on this and other important issues (see *sidebar*). Please keep an eye out for further information on how you can be part of these efforts.

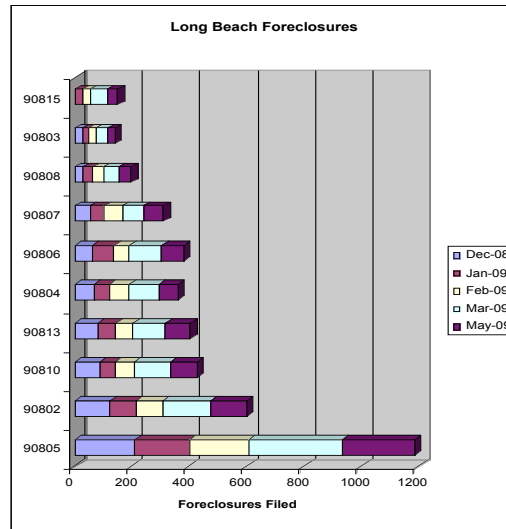
ICO Leaders to Push Federal Legislators on Health Care/ Immigration Reform

ICO Leaders from several north and central Long Beach congregations are working to schedule a public town hall with Long Beach's federal delegation - including U.S. Reps. Laura Richardson and Linda Sanchez - to push them to take positive action to reform our broken health care and immigration systems.

Come join fellow faith community congregants from across Long Beach at this historic moment to have input in this historic process -- to share our stories and persuade our representatives of the need for the U.S. Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform and a health care reform bill that provides guaranteed access to affordable health care options. Please contact the ICO office at (562) 984-2727 or info@greaterlongbeachico.org for more information.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

ICO Leaders Continue Working to Ease Foreclosure Crisis



In a continuing effort to ease the foreclosure crisis that is afflicting Long Beach and has proved especially devastating in North Long Beach, ICO leaders worked with Vice Mayor and 9th District Councilman Val Lerch to pass an ordinance earlier this month targeting loan modification scams. The ordinance is now being drafted by the Long Beach City Attorney's office, and is modeled on a similar ordinance recently adopted in Los Angeles.

The work with Vice Mayor Lerch grew out of a foreclosure prevention action ICO leaders at St. Athanasius Catholic Church held this past May with U.S.

Rep. Laura Richardson and the Vice Mayor. Also present were representatives of the California Department of Real Estate, the Los Angeles County Assessor's office and Operation Hope who gave presentations on foreclosure scams, property taxes and how to modify loans.

In addition to Lerch's commitment on the loan modification ordinance, Congresswoman Richardson committed to using her local office as an additional resource to get lenders to the table with homeowners to negotiate loan modifications.

Leaders are still moving forward on visits with Vice Mayor Lerch, Councilwoman Tonia Reyes Uranga and the Long Beach Housing Development Company to push for a commitment to adopt a foreclosure program similar to Los Angeles' \$1.5 Million Pilot program offering silent seconds of up to \$75,000 for home owners at risk of foreclosure. There have been 4,163 foreclosures in the city since December of 2008, including 880 in the North Long Beach 90805 zip code alone. While it is expected that some of those foreclosures are absorbed back into the market, ICO leaders continue to wonder where those displaced families go.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

