

PASTOR DELGADO, THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INTRODUCTION...

LET ME ALSO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY...

AND FOR THE WORK YOU ARE DOING TO BRING THE FAITH COMMUNITY CLOSER TO US IN GOVERNMENT.

GOOD MORNING TO YOU ALL.

BUENOS DIAS A TODOS.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU FOR THE LIBRE INITIATIVE SECOND HISPANIC PASTORS PRAYER FORUM...

AND I AM GLAD TO BE IN THE COMPANY OF SUCH DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FRIENDS.

THIS MORNING I WOULD LIKE TO BRIEFLY SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON IMMIGRATION REFORM...

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY...

AND HOW WE CAN FOSTER GREATER ECONOMIC FREEDOM.

LIKE MANY OF YOU, I SHARE MANY OF THE SAME PRINCIPLES AS THE LIBRE INITIATIVE...

ESPECIALLY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GIVE HISPANICS A VOICE THAT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN TOO PREVALENT IN OUR POLITICAL DISCOURSE.

AND WE ARE SEEING FIRST-HAND THE NEED TO HAVE A STRONG VOICE IN POLITICS AS THE DEBATE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM CONTINUES.

FIRST, LET ME STATE THAT WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO KICK THE CAN DOWN THE ROAD WHEN IT COMES TO REFORMING THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM IN OUR COUNTRY.

WE ALL KNOW THE SYSTEM IS BROKEN - AND IT'S TIME WE FIX IT.

AND WHILE WASHINGTON CAN'T GET ITS ACT TOGETHER ON MUCH ANYTHING, IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON D.C. TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION THAT MAKES SENSE.

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP THESE COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS THAT WILL BRING NORMALCY TO THE MILLIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN OUR COUNTRY.

IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE WILLING TO STUDY AND WORK SHOULD HAVE A LEGAL WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND WELL-BEING.

ALREADY, WE ARE SEEING THIS MOVEMENT TOWARD COMMON SENSE TAKING PLACE IN OUR STATE CAPITALS...

AND GOVERNOR SCOTT DESERVES CREDIT FOR SIGNING A BILL INTO LAW THAT PROVIDES IN-STATE COLLEGE TUITION FOR "DREAMERS..."

THESE AND OTHER STEPS ARE THE SORT OF LEADERSHIP AND ACTION THAT THE FOLKS IN WASHINGTON DC NEED TO ENGAGE IN!

HEMOS VISTO LA FALTA DE ACCION EN WASHINGTON D.C. CON RESPECTO A LA REFORMA MIGRATORIA.

SABEMOS QUE EL SISTEMA ACTUAL NO FUNCIONA.

TENEMOS QUE APOYAR UNA REFORMA BASADA EN SENTIDO COMUN, PARA NORMALIZAR EL ESTATUS LEGAL DE LOS INMIGRANTES QUE QUIEREN ESTUDIAR Y TRABAJAR EN NUESTRO PAIS.

AQUI EN LA FLORIDA...

EL GOBERNADOR SCOTT MERECE UN GRAN RECONOCIMIENTO POR HABER FIRMADO UNA LEY LA CUAL DA EL MISMO TRATO A LOS "DREAMERS" CON RESPECTO A LAS MATRICULAS UNIVERSITARIAS

ESTE TIPO DE LIDERAZGO ES UN EJEMPLO A SEGUIR EN WASHINGTON.

NEXT, I WANT TO MENTION HOW IMPORTANT THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY IS IN GETTING THOSE OF US IN GOVERNMENT TO ACT.

WE SEE THAT LEADERSHIP HERE WITH ALL OF YOU, AND I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT IN THE CIVIC PROCESS.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS CRUCIAL, BECAUSE WE SHARE COMMON MISSIONS.

THOSE OF YOU IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY AND THOSE OF US IN GOVERNMENT ARE CALLED UPON TO FEED THE HUNGRY...

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY, TO PROVIDE A WELCOME AND SHELTER FOR STRANGERS...

TO CLOTHE THE NAKED, AND TO CARE FOR THE SICK AND IMPRISONED.

AND MANY TIMES WE ENGAGE IN COMMON PURPOSES, WITHOUT SHARING INFORMATION OR RESOURCES.

THIS IS WHY SINCE I BECAME MAYOR, I HAVE SOUGHT WAYS TO REACH OUT TO PASTORS, PRIESTS, RABBIS, AND OTHERS THROUGH AN INITIATIVE CALLED ENGAGE 305.

WE NEED TO "ENGAGE" IN AN EVEN CLOSER DIALOGUE ON HOW WE COULD HELP ONE ANOTHER IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOSE WE SERVE.

BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT BACKGROUND WE COME FROM, WE SHARE A RELIGIOUS TRADITION OF SERVICE TO OTHERS.

IT'S A SHARED DESIRE TO HELP THE VULNERABLE AMONG US, TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, TO HONOR AND RESPECT OUR ELDERLY.

AND WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO VALUE THIS TRADITION.

TODOS SOMOS PARTE DE UNA TRADICION RELIGIOSA DE SERVIR AL PROJIMO.

QUEREMOS AYUDAR A NUESTROS NIÑOS, A LOS ANCIANOS, A LOS DESAMPARADOS...

POR ESO, DEBE DE HABER MAS DIALOGO ENTRE EL GOBIERNO Y NUESTRAS IGLESIAS, POR QUE AMBOS SERVIMOS EL MISMO PUEBLO.

BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN SPREAD GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY FINAL POINT, THE NEED TO SUPPORT GREATER ECONOMIC FREEDOM.

ON THE LIBRE WEBSITE, THERE IS A STATEMENT THAT SAYS:

"SO LONG AS THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STRONG, IMMIGRANTS WILL LOOK TO THE UNITED STATES AS THE BEACON OF HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE."

THIS IS TRUE.

OUR COUNTRY HAS ALWAYS BEEN SEEN AS THIS BEACON OF HOPE.

AND THIS BEACON SHINES BRIGHTLY HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THINK ABOUT WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY...

THIS IS A COMMUNITY WHERE 60% OF THE POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN...

AND WE HAVE LEARNED TO BENEFIT FROM THIS DIVERSITY, WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE ALL THAT YOU SEE ALL AROUND YOU TODAY.

WE NEED TO CONTINUE WORKING TO KEEP THAT BEACON OF HOPE SHINING, SO THAT IT CAN LIGHT THE WAY FOR OTHERS WHO LOOK TO US FOR THAT BETTER FUTURE.

AND WHEN I LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE TODAY, AND I SEE HOW WILLING YOU ARE TO STEP FORWARD AND PROVIDE THIS LEADERSHIP, I KNOW THIS COMMUNITY WILL BE BETTER OFF BECAUSE OF IT.

NUESTRO PAIS FUE FUNDADO POR INMIGRANTES.

Y SIEMPRE SEREMOS LA EZPERANZA DEL MUNDO A TODOS QUIENES BUSCAN LA LIBERTAD ECONOMICA.

TENEMOS QUE CONTINUAR TRABAJANDO JUNTOS PARA ASI MANTENER EL SUEÑO AMERICANO VIVO PARA LAS GENERACIONES FUTURAS.

I'LL FINISH WITH A PASSAGE FROM MARK 9:35 WHERE JESUS CHRIST "SAT DOWN AND CALLED THE TWELVE.

AND HE SAID TO THEM...

'IF ANYONE WOULD BE FIRST, HE MUST BE LAST OF ALL AND SERVANT OF ALL.'"

LET US INDEED BE SERVANTS TO ALL...

AND MAY WE ALL BE BLESSED WITH PATIENCE AND WISDOM AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

¡GRACIAS Y QUE DIOS LES BENDIGA!