

5,000 expected at immigration walk

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Body

Organizers **expect 5,000** people to attend a **walk** for dignity and self-respect for immigrants Oct. 7 from the state Capitol to Turner Field and back.

Walk organizers are calling for federal **immigration** reform that would legalize the nation's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants and an end to **immigration** raids and deportations.

They are also protesting Georgia's new law, known as SB 529, which uses the tax code to penalize employers who hire illegal immigrants. The bill also requires public agencies to verify lawful status for someone to receive taxpayer-funded benefits.

E-mails announcing the **walk** say in English, Spanish and Portuguese, "Congress, Get Back to Work!" "Legalization for All."

The three- to four-mile **walk** is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. and includes about 20 speakers at the Capitol afterwards, said organizer Teodoro Maus, Mexico's former consul general in Atlanta. The Atlanta Police Department **expects** to issue the **walk** permit Friday, Maj. Calvin Moss said.

The state **immigration** bill has put a chill through Georgia's illegal immigrant community, said Maus. If the trend of anti-illegal immigrant rhetoric continues, immigrants will indeed leave the country, he said.

"But if we are going to leave, we should leave with our heads up and with dignity," he said.

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