FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
September 26, 2005

MEDIA ADVISORY

GARMENT WORKER ADVOCATES TO RELEASE UNPRECEDENTED STUDY EVALUATING CALIFORNIA’S LANDMARK ANTI-SWEATSHOP LAW

WHAT:  
Leading garment worker advocates will hold a press conference on September 28th to commemorate the sixth anniversary of AB 633 (Steinberg) – California’s landmark anti-sweatshop law – and to unveil a ground-breaking study evaluating the State’s implementation of the law.

WHY:  
Los Angeles remains the epicenter of garment production in both the state and nation, manufacturing roughly $13 billion in apparel each year. Yet garment workers – who comprise the very foundation of the industry – fail to reap the benefits of this multibillion-dollar business. Workers toil under hazardous working conditions for poverty wages in an industry notorious for sweatshops and rampant workplace violations – earning Los Angeles the dubious distinction as the sweatshop capital of the nation.

Six years ago, AB 633 was signed into law – signaling an historic consensus that corporations must be held accountable and that sweatshops must be relegated to our past, not our future. For the report, advocates analyzed a statistically random sample of over 200 AB 633 claims to answer the pivotal question: Has AB 633 fulfilled its promise?

WHEN:  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE:  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles, California
1145 Wilshire Boulevard (at the corner of Lucas), 2nd Floor, Library.
Public parking lots are located on both Wilshire and Lucas. Street parking is also available.

WHO:  
Speakers at the press conference include:
- Assembly Member Paul Koretz, Assembly Labor & Employment Committee Chair;
- Los Angeles City Councilmember Eric Garcetti;
- Christina Chung and Judy Marblestone, Asian Pacific American Legal Center;
- Rini Chakraborty, Sweatshop Watch; and
- Garment workers, who will share their experiences trying to recover wages under AB 633.

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