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No plans for tonight? Attend forum on immigration reform

By [Malavika Jagannathan](#)

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DE PERE — A Milwaukee-based immigration advocacy group hopes a forum on immigration reform will help people on both sides of the debate come together to a better understanding of the issues — if not total agreement.

Representatives with Voces de la Frontera will make their sixth stop at 6 p.m. today in Green Bay on a 10-city tour around the state, where they've sponsored a series of town-hall style forums with focus on immigration legislation, myths and realities.

"We see a need for it because the national debate is so polarized," said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, executive director of the grassroots organizations at a press conference this afternoon. "We want not a debate but a civil and respectful dialogue."

Last week Congress failed to act a second time on a comprehensive immigration plan that could potentially have given an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in this country a path to legalization while reforming the existing immigration system.

Meanwhile, the city of Green Bay passed an ordinance that would require any applicant for a city license or permit to promise not to be an illegal immigrant or hire illegal immigrants. Several other local municipalities across the country have issued similar edicts.

"I think the Green Bay ordinance is an expression of the failure of the federal government to fix a problem," Neumann-Ortiz said, adding that the tour's stop in Green Bay will hopefully help residents understand the complexities of the issue.

If you go

What: Wisconsin Reality Tour focusing on immigration with presentations and a question-and-answer session

When: 6 p.m. today

Where: West Side Moravian Church, 1707 S. Oneida St. in Green Bay. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public