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For Immediate Release

**Renewed Push on Immigration Reform Must Include a Better
Employment Verification System**

*Society for Human Resource Management Calls for
Improved System to Enhance National Security*

(Alexandria, Va., January 24, 2007)—In response to President Bush’s support for new immigration reform legislation, as outlined in his State of the Union address, the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) today called for drastic changes to the government’s current employment verification system.

SHRM specifically urged Congress to restore integrity to the U.S. immigration system by adopting new legislation that makes full use of advanced technologies to assist U.S. employers in combating fraud.

“Any comprehensive immigration reform must include an employment verification system that works,” said SHRM President and CEO Susan R. Meisinger. “As HR professionals, we know the current system is both inefficient and inadequate at preventing fraud.”

Specifically, Meisinger said that experience with the government’s current “Basic Pilot” verification system has shown it to be “incapable of meeting the needs of our nation’s employers or of protecting the public from identity fraud.”

“If we are serious about stemming the tide of illegal immigrants, we must insist on a new system that uses the best technologies to protect employers, employees and the public,” she said.

With more than 217,000 members representing thousands of U.S. employers and human resource professionals, SHRM is leading a coalition to develop principles that will guide legislators in enacting a reliable, efficient and predicable employment verification system. SHRM expects to announce the principles next month and has pledged to work with Congress toward this important goal.