



IMMIGRATION RESOURCE KIT

August 2013

House Committee on the Judiciary

Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)

Table of Contents

STRENGTHENING BORDER SECURITY & INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT	5
The SAFE Act	6
The Legal Workforce Act	8
The Border Security Results Act	10
 IMPROVING OUR LEGAL IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS	 11
The SKILLS Visa Act	12
The AG Act	14
 FAIRLY DEALING WITH UNLAWFUL IMMIGRANTS	 16
The Way Forward	17
 PRESS MATERIALS	 18
How to Communicate Immigration Reform	19
Talking Points: Top 10 Concerns About Senate Bill	20
Sample Op-ed	22
Sample Script for Website Video	23

Committee Contacts

The House Judiciary Committee is eager to help you communicate the importance of immigration reform to your constituents. Below are key Committee contacts on immigration issues.

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August 2013

Dear Republican Colleague:

Congress is currently engaged in a momentous debate on immigration. Nearly everyone agrees that we need to fix our nation's broken immigration system and secure the border, but the House and Senate are taking two very different approaches to solving this complex issue. While the Senate has passed a massive bill that contains many problematic provisions, the House is taking a step-by-step approach so that we carefully and methodically review each component of immigration reform in detail. We want to produce better solutions so that the end result is a workable immigration system for the years to come.

This step-by-step approach will help us get immigration reform right by making sure we avoid the mistakes of the past. For example, nearly 30 years ago Congress passed and President Reagan signed into law the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, assuring the American people that it would fix our immigration system. We were promised tougher enforcement in exchange for the legalization of roughly three million people – but these promises were not kept and our immigration laws remain broken. The American people want to know how Congress plans to avoid this similar outcome in the current debate surrounding immigration reform.

Any immigration reform bill needs to first strengthen border security and the interior enforcement of our immigration laws, improve our legal immigration programs, and find a way to fairly deal with unlawful immigrants. As part of our step-by-step approach, the House Judiciary Committee has held numerous educational briefings for Members of Congress since the beginning of the year on our immigration laws, convened nearly a dozen hearings on immigration, and approved several bills that address specific issues within our immigration system. However, our work is not yet finished.

This recess packet has been put together to help you communicate to your constituents the importance of immigration reform and the House Republican plan to produce solutions that actually fix the problems that plague our immigration system. The Committee welcomes your insight and input as we move forward together on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if you need anything as we work toward our goal of a workable immigration system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Goodlatte".

Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary



IMMIGRATION RESOURCE KIT

STRENGTHENING BORDER SECURITY & INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT



The SAFE Act

Background

Successful immigration reform must address effective interior enforcement of our immigration laws. This is an integral piece of the puzzle. We can't just be fixated on securing the border, which undoubtedly is an issue of paramount concern. We must also focus on interior enforcement, or more precisely what to do with unlawful immigrants who make it past the border and legal immigrants who violate the terms of their visas and thus become unlawfully present in the U.S. In fact, it's estimated that 30-40% of illegal immigrants currently living in the U.S. came here legally and then overstayed their visas. Any real immigration reform effort must guarantee that our laws will be enforced.

The Problem

One reason why our immigration system is broken today is because the present and past administrations have largely ignored the enforcement of our immigration laws. Under President Obama's Administration, the Department of Homeland Security stopped the deportation of certain categories of unlawful immigrants altogether. If we want to avoid the mistakes of the past, we cannot allow the President to continue shutting down federal immigration enforcement efforts unilaterally.

The Solution

On June 6, 2013, Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee Chairman Trey Gowdy introduced the *Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act* (H.R. 2278), also known as the *SAFE Act*. The House Judiciary Committee approved this bill on June 18, 2013 by a vote of 20-15.

The *SAFE Act* improves the interior enforcement of our immigration laws by preventing the Executive Branch from turning off federal enforcement efforts unilaterally. The bill accomplishes this by granting states and localities the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. The bill strengthens national security by increasing border security, making it more difficult for foreign nationals who pose a national security risk to enter and remain in the U.S., improving visa security in high risk countries, and protecting American communities from dangerous criminal aliens.

The bill is supported by the National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council, the Western States Sheriff's Association, and the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers.

FAST FACT

30-40% of illegal immigrants came here legally but overstayed their visas.

Summary of the SAFE Act

Grants States and Localities the Authority to Enforce Immigration Laws: Presidents of both parties had too much latitude to refuse to enforce our immigration laws. This bill removes the ability of the President to unilaterally shut down enforcement efforts by granting states and localities specific congressional authorization to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law and includes provisions to facilitate their assistance. It also allows states and localities to enact and enforce their own immigration laws as long as they are consistent with federal law. In addition, the bill withholds specific grants from sanctuary cities that defy federal immigration enforcement efforts.

Strengthens National Security: The bill makes it more difficult for foreign terrorists and other foreign nationals who pose national security concerns to enter and remain in the United States. Of note, the bill bars foreign terrorists or removable immigrants who threaten national security from receiving immigration benefits, such as naturalization and discretionary relief from removal, among other things. The bill also requires that no immigration benefits may be provided to immigrants until all required background and security checks are completed.

Protects American Communities from Dangerous Criminal Aliens: The bill protects the American public by facilitating and expediting the removal of criminal aliens. In the instance a dangerous criminal immigrant cannot be removed from the U.S., the bill allows DHS to detain them. It also keeps our streets safe by providing for mandatory detention of unlawful immigrants who have been convicted of DUIs.

Improves Visa Security: The bill improves our nation's first line of defense, the visa issuance process. The bill expands the Visa Security Program to additional high risk posts, strengthens the integrity of the student visa program, and authorizes DHS and the State Department to revoke visas to foreign nationals if in the security or foreign policy interests of the U.S., among other provisions.

Helps ICE Officers Better Do Their Jobs: The bill assists U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in carrying out their jobs of enforcing federal immigration laws by strengthening their ability to make arrests for immigration violations. The bill also allows them to carry firearms and provides them with body armor.

Strengthens Border Security: The bill prohibits the Departments of Interior and Agriculture from preventing Border Patrol agents access to federal lands within 100 miles of the border. This will better enable Border Patrol agents to secure our border and prevent illegal activity, such as illegal immigration, smuggling, and drug trafficking. It also prohibits the interference of Border Patrol activities, such as construction and maintenance of roads and barriers, use of patrol vehicles, and deployment of tactical infrastructure.

Reviews Administration's Abuse of Prosecutorial Discretion: The bill requires a report to Congress each year on the abuse of prosecutorial discretion by the Administration.

The Legal Workforce Act

The Problem

Employers by law are currently required to use the paper-based, error-prone I-9 system to check the legal status of their newly hired employees. This law has been on the books for nearly 30 years but it's not an accurate way for employers to check the legal status of their new employees since identity documents can be easily falsified.

E-Verify is a web-based program that provides employers with an easier and more accurate way to determine if their new employees are allowed to work in the U.S. This program has been up and running since 1997 but it's currently not mandatory for all U.S. employers.

E-Verify checks the Social Security numbers or alien identification numbers of new hires against Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security records in order to help ensure that new hires are genuinely eligible to work in the U.S. The program quickly confirms 99.7% of work-eligible employees and takes less than two minutes to use.

Although it is not required, today over 465,000 American employers voluntarily use E-Verify. Outside evaluations have found that the vast majority of employers using E-Verify believe it to be an effective and reliable tool for checking the legal status of their employees.

The Solution

The *Legal Workforce Act* (H.R. 1772) was introduced on April 26, 2013 by Rep. Lamar Smith and approved by the House Judiciary Committee on June 26, 2013 in a vote of 22-9. This bipartisan bill discourages illegal immigration by ensuring jobs are made available only to those authorized to work in the U.S. Specifically, the bill requires employers to check the work eligibility of all future hires through the E-Verify system.

The *Legal Workforce Act* is supported by the Associated Builders and Contractors Inc, the National Restaurant Association, the HR Policy Association, the National Retail Federation, the International Franchise Association, the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition, NumbersUSA, the Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Home Builders among others.

FAST FACT

E-Verify confirms 99.7% of work eligible employees and takes less than two minutes to use.



Summary of the Legal Workforce Act

Repeals I-9 System: The *Legal Workforce Act* repeals the current paper-based I-9 system and replaces it with a completely electronic work eligibility check, bringing the process into the 21st century. However, an employer may opt to keep using the paper-based I-9 system in addition to E-Verify if they prefer.

Gradual Phase-In: The bill phases-in mandatory E-Verify participation for new hires in six month increments beginning on the date of enactment. Within six months of enactment, businesses having more than 10,000 employees are required to use E-Verify. Within 12 months of enactment, businesses having 500 to 9,999 employees are required to use E-Verify. Eighteen months after enactment, businesses having 20 to 499 employees must use E-Verify. And 24 months after enactment, businesses having 1 to 19 employees must use E-Verify. It allows a one-time six month extension of the initial phase-in. It also requires that employees performing “agricultural labor or services” are subject to an E-Verify check within 24 months of the date of enactment.

Voluntary Use: The bill allows employers to use E-Verify to check the work eligibility of their current employees as long as they do so in a nondiscriminatory manner and on all employees who are in the same geographic location or in the same job category.

Strengthened Penalties: The bill raises penalties on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants in violation of the requirements of the bill. The bill also creates a penalty for individuals (employees or employers) who knowingly submit false information to the E-Verify system.

States as Partners: The bill preempts duplicative state laws mandating E-Verify use but gives states prominent roles in enforcing the law. Specifically, it retains the ability of states and localities to condition business licenses on the requirement that the employer use E-Verify in good faith under federal law. In addition, the bill allows states to enforce the federal E-Verify requirement and incentivizes them to do so by letting them keep the fines they recover from employers who violate the law.

Protects Against Identity Theft: The bill allows individuals to lock their Social Security number (SSN) so that it can’t be used by another person to get a job. It also allows parents or legal guardians to lock the SSN of their minor child. And if a SSN shows a pattern of unusual multiple use, DHS is required to lock the SSN and alert the owner that their personal information may have been compromised.

Safe Harbor: The bill grants employers safe harbor from prosecution if they use the E-Verify program in good faith, and through no fault of their own, receive an incorrect eligibility confirmation.

Identity Authentication Pilot Programs: The bill requires DHS to conduct a least two pilot programs aimed at using technology within the E-Verify system to help further prevent identity theft in the system.

The Border Security Results Act

The Problem

Border security is the first line of defense against illegal immigration at our nation's borders and ports of entry. In addition, our homeland security hinges in part on how well we control who and what comes into this country. A porous border is not only a conduit for drug smugglers and human traffickers, but is also a vulnerability that terrorists may exploit. However, the Department of Homeland Security does not have a national strategy to secure the borders or reliable metrics to measure border security progress. The House Homeland Security Committee has approved a bill to address border security, the *Border Security Results Act*.

Summary of the Border Security Results Act

The *Border Security Results Act* (H.R. 1417) was introduced on April 9, 2013 by House Homeland Security Chairman Michael McCaul and approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on May 20, 2013 by voice vote. H.R. 1417 requires results verified by metrics to end the Department of Homeland Security's ad hoc border approach and help secure our nation's porous borders. For more information about this bill, please contact the House Homeland Security Committee.



IMMIGRATION RESOURCE KIT

IMPROVING OUR LEGAL IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS



The SKILLS Visa Act

Background

The contributions of highly-skilled and educated immigrants to the United States are well-documented. Seventy-six percent of the patents awarded to our top patent-producing universities had at least one foreign-born inventor. According to a recent report, these foreign-born inventors “played especially large roles in cutting edge fields like semiconductor device manufacturing, information technology, pulse or digital communications, pharmaceutical drugs or drug compounds and optics.”

A study by the American Enterprise Institute and the Partnership for a New American Economy found that an additional 100 immigrants with advanced STEM degrees from U.S. universities is associated with an additional 262 jobs for natives. The study also found that immigrants with advanced degrees pay over \$22,000 a year in taxes yet their families receive less than \$2,300 in government benefits.



The Problem

The United States has the most generous legal immigration system in the world – providing permanent residence to over a million immigrants a year. However, we only select 12% of immigrants on the basis of the education and skills they can bring to America – and that percentage includes the immigrants’ family members. Other countries, such as Canada, the U.K., and Australia, select over 60% of immigrants based on skills.

In addition, while many immigrants have founded some of our most successful companies, we only select less than 1% of immigrants on the basis of their entrepreneurial talents. And that is only if they already have the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to participate in the investor visa program. In today’s global economy, it doesn’t make sense to forfeit the world’s best and brightest to our competitors abroad.

The Solution

The *Supplying Knowledge Based Immigrants and Lifting Levels of STEM Visas Act* (H.R. 2131), also known as the *SKILLS Visa Act*, was introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa on May 23, 2013 and makes our immigration system smarter by replacing nonessential immigration programs with those that will make our country more competitive in the global economy. The *SKILLS Visa Act* was approved by the House Judiciary Committee in a vote of 20-14 on June 27, 2013.

The bill is supported by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), Compete America, inSPIRE STEM USA, the Internet Association, and the Information Technology Industry Council.

Summary of the SKILLS Visa Act

Increases Green Cards for STEM Grads: The bill allocates up to 55,000 green cards a year for employers to petition for foreign graduates of U.S. universities with advanced degrees in STEM fields.

Increases and Strengthens H-1B Program:

The bill increases the H-1B visa cap for high-skilled workers from 65,000 to 155,000 and increases the special pool of visas for foreign graduates of U.S. universities to 40,000. The bill contains enhanced anti-fraud provisions, better protects American workers and allows H-1B spouses to work.

Provides Job-Creating Entrepreneur Visas:

The bill allocates up to 10,000 green cards a year for alien entrepreneurs who 1) can attract investment from venture-capital firms to establish businesses that will create at least five jobs or 2) have already created five jobs over 10 years through the E-2 treaty investor program.

Strengthens Investor Visa Program: The bill strengthens the investor visa green card program by 1) making the regional center pilot project permanent, 2) indexing investment requirements for inflation, and 3) adding anti-fraud protections.

FAST FACT

We currently select only 12% of immigrants based on the skills and education they bring to America.

Makes Immigration System Smarter: The bill repeals the diversity lottery green card program and the siblings of U.S. citizens green card program (*while keeping the latter program open for 10 years so that siblings who have been waiting for the longest time in the backlog can receive their green cards*), and allocates these green cards to immigrants with skills America needs.

Eliminates Arbitrary Caps: The bill eliminates the employment-based green card per-country quota system and raises the family-sponsored per-country cap, so that immigrants will not have to wait longer just because of their country of origin.

More Doctors for Underserved Areas: The bill permanently authorizes the program allowing foreign doctors to work in medically underserved areas without first having to return home for two years after their residencies, increases the number of slots available, and makes other improvements to the program.

Increases Green Cards for Skilled Workers and Nuclear Family Members: The bill allocates an additional 15,000 green cards a year to both employment-based second preference (*members of the professions with advanced degrees and persons of exceptional ability*) and third preference (*skilled workers, professionals with bachelor's degrees and other workers*) green card categories and allocates an additional 25,000 green cards a year to the spouses and minor children of permanent residents in order to reduce backlogs.

Greater Flexibility for Employers and Workers: The bill allows foreign students and workers on temporary visas whose employment-based green card petitions have been approved to continue to work in the U.S. until their green cards become available.

The AG Act

The Problem

Our current temporary agricultural guestworker program, known as the H-2A program, is unworkable for both farmers and immigrants who want to come here as guestworkers to use this program. The program exposes American farmers to costly litigation and burdens them with excessive regulations. In fact, the H-2A program is so unworkable that most American farmers avoid using the program altogether. This broken program, coupled with the fact that American farmers rely on foreign labor to pick their crops, has increased the hiring of unlawful immigrants in the agriculture sector. It is estimated today that as many as one million undocumented immigrants work on American farms.

The agriculture industry needs reliable farm labor and workers who want temporary work need access to stable, legal, temporary employment. It's in our nation's interest to create a sensible way for workers to come in on a temporary basis, fill empty jobs, and return to their home countries.

The Solution

On April 26, 2013, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte introduced the *Agricultural Guestworker Act* (H.R. 1773), also known as the *AG Act*. The Committee approved this bill on June 19, 2013 in a vote of 20-16.

This bill provides farmers with a new guestworker program that eases access to a lawful, agricultural workforce that employers may call upon when sufficient American labor cannot be found. In contrast to the current, bureaucrat-driven H-2A program, the guestworker program created under the *AG Act* takes a market-based approach by removing red tape, simplifying access to temporary labor, and creating a streamlined legal dispute resolution system to resolve farm worker concerns quickly and efficiently.

Successful guestworker programs, like the one created in the *AG Act*, help deter illegal immigration, protect the jobs of U.S. workers, discourage the exploitation of unauthorized workers, and stabilize industries. By putting farmers in the driver's seat rather than Washington bureaucrats, they will be better equipped to compete in the global economy and continue growing our crops.



Summary of the AG Act

Expands the Scope of the Program to

Address More Agriculture: The bill allows the dairy industry and agricultural product processors to participate in the program.

Eliminates Excessive Red Tape: The new temporary agricultural guestworker program created under the bill removes barriers and excessive paperwork farmers face in hiring foreign workers. Once E-Verify is implemented for all employers, if a grower is designated as a registered agricultural employer by USDA and agrees to the terms and obligations of participating in the program, then they can easily hire guestworkers already admitted to the U.S. without having to file yet another petition for the individual worker. The new guestworker program's petition process is also attestation based, meaning that farmers will no longer face unnecessary, government-imposed red tape during the process.

Protects Farmers from Abusive Litigation:

In order to discourage frivolous and abusive litigation against growers, growers may require as a condition of employment that guestworkers be subject to binding arbitration and mediation of any grievances in relation to the employment relationship. This bill also prevents farmers using the new guestworker program from being sued by Legal Services Corporation-funded lawyers.

FAST FACT

It's estimated that up to one million illegal immigrants work in the ag sector.

Enacts Market-Based Approach to Meet

Demand and Supply: The bill eliminates the artificial government-imposed wage rate that is part of the current temporary agricultural guestworker program and replaces it with the market-based prevailing wage rate or the state minimum wage—whichever is greater.

Helps American Farmers Keep Up with

Global Competitors: The new guestworker program will allow American growers to better compete in the global economy by removing the exorbitant costs associated with abusive litigation, excessive regulation, and artificially high, government-imposed wage rates.

Farmer Friendly: The bill designates the Department of Agriculture to administer the new guestworker program rather than the Department of Labor. USDA is better equipped to help farmers and better understands their needs.

Temporary but Flexible: The maximum amount of time a guestworker is allowed to stay in the U.S. continuously is 18 months (*and 36 months in certain instances*) so that it's truly a guestworker program. Generally, the guestworkers must then leave the country for a period of time that is 1/6 of the time he or she was working in the U.S.

Participation: Under the new guestworker program, farmers can petition for any foreign national – whether currently within the U.S. or abroad – to come work for them.

Protects Taxpayers: Under the new program, guestworkers are not eligible for Obamacare, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, or other welfare programs.

IMMIGRATION RESOURCE KIT

FAIRLY DEALING WITH UNLAWFUL IMMIGRANTS

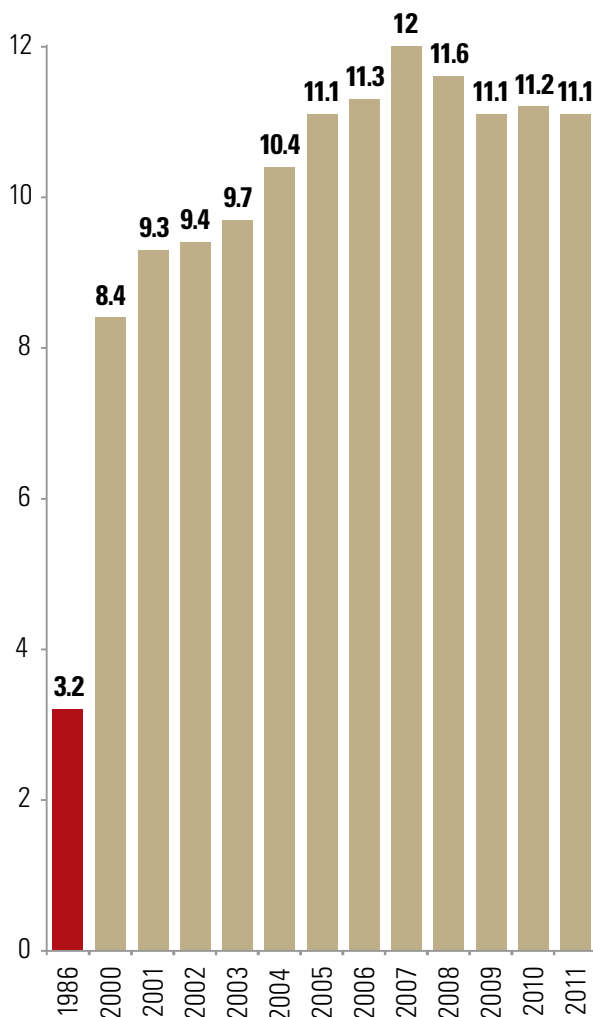


The Way Forward

The Problem

When Congress passed an immigration overhaul bill in 1986, Americans were promised tougher enforcement of our immigration laws in exchange for the legalization of roughly three million unlawful immigrants. While the legalization happened, the Executive Branch did not keep their promise to enforce our immigration laws. Since our immigration laws have been largely ignored for the past 30 years, our country now has an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. According to the Pew Research Center, the majority of them have been living here for more than 10 years.

Illegal Immigrants (in millions)



The House Republican Way Forward

House Republicans are currently discussing a way forward on how to provide legal status to unlawful immigrants living in our country. However, the current unlawful immigrant population is diverse, so the solutions may vary. For example, while some knowingly broke our immigration laws, others were brought illegally to the U.S. as children by their parents. These children came here through no fault of their own and many of them know no other home than the United States.

Unlike the Senate immigration bill, we should not create a special pathway to citizenship for those who knowingly broke our immigration laws. It's unfair to those who have waited in line and followed our immigration rules to create an entirely new, currently non-existent path to citizenship for those who knowingly broke our immigration laws. The Senate bill also provides legalization before border security. However, it is imperative that we secure our border and enforce our immigration laws first.



IMMIGRATION RESOURCE KIT

PRESS MATERIALS



How to Communicate Immigration Reform

Key Points to Make

America is a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. Immigration reform must honor both our history as a nation of immigrants and our foundational principles grounded in the rule of law.

We need commonsense immigration reform so that our laws work and the system works. We need solutions that are responsible, realistic, consistent, and fair.

House Republicans understand the importance of reforming our nation's immigration laws and are taking a step-by-step approach to solve the problems within our immigration system.

Immigration reform is too complex and important to not examine each piece in detail. Whatever is ultimately voted on in the House must go through the traditional legislative process.

Any immigration reform proposal must first strengthen border security and the enforcement of our immigration laws, improve our legal immigration programs, and find a way to fairly deal with those living unlawfully in the U.S.

Over the past six months, the House Judiciary Committee convened nearly a dozen hearings on immigration and approved four pieces of legislation that improve our immigration system.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the *SAFE Act*, a bill designed to strengthen the interior enforcement of our immigration laws.

The House Judiciary Committee also approved the *Legal Workforce Act*. This bill requires the use of E-Verify nationwide and helps employers determine who is lawfully here and who can accept employment.

In addition, the House Judiciary Committee approved the *AG Act*, which creates a new guestworker program that provides American farmers with access to a reliable, lawful workforce.

Lastly, the House Judiciary Committee approved the *SKILLS Visa Act*. This bill allows hardworking, smart immigrants to come to the U.S. so that they create jobs for American workers and make us more competitive in the global economy.

These immigration bills are being considered through an open process in which members have the opportunity to fully vet them and offer improvements through amendments. We welcome all ideas and suggestions to improve our immigration system.

While the Senate has passed legislation, the House will continue to work its will by passing our own legislation. That is the American legislative process.

Immigration reform is not a race; it's about getting it right.

Talking Points: Top 10 Concerns About Senate Bill

#1: Unconstitutional: The Senate immigration bill is a revenue-raising bill, which makes it unconstitutional. Specifically, the bill contains a wide range of effects on federal revenues, including changes in collections of income and payroll taxes, certain visa fees that are classified as revenues, and various fines and penalties. Language in the U.S. Constitution requires that any bill that raises revenue, also known as a tax, must originate in the House of Representatives, not the Senate.

#2: Legalization Before Border Security: Six months from the bill's enactment, the Secretary of Homeland Security must submit a border security plan. Once this plan is submitted—meaning that the border does not have to be secure—unlawful immigrants can then apply for legal status, which is called “registered provisional status (RPI).” Adjustment from RPI status to Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status can begin when the border security plan is deployed, the border fence and electronic verification system have been implemented, the exit system is being used, and 38,405 Border Patrol agents have been deployed on the Southwest border. This means that nothing has to be fully implemented before legalization and there are no assurances that the border has to be secure. Additionally, the Secretary of Homeland Security can ignore these requirements after 10 years of litigation or a Supreme Court ruling has prevented these triggers from being implemented.

#3: Lack of Border Security: Under the Schumer-Hoeven-Corker Amendment, the so-called “border surge” amendment, approximately 38,405 Border Patrol agents will be deployed, maintained, and stationed along the Southwest border. However, the agents do not have to be deployed before 2021, which is well after legalization takes place. Under the provision, DHS’s goal in allocating the additional Border Patrol agents to airports shall be to reduce wait times, not to enforce immigration law, apprehend illegal immigrants, seize illegal contraband, or improve national security. This is hardly a border surge.

#4: Interior Enforcement is Virtually Nonexistent: Under the Senate immigration bill, the interior enforcement of our immigration laws would be completely gutted. Specifically –

- **President Still Has On/Off Switch:** The Senate bill does not take away the immigration enforcement “on/off switch” from the President. The House enforcement bill (*SAFE Act*) does this by granting states the authority to enforce the laws in the future.
- **Enforcement Free Zones:** The bill allows the Secretary of DHS to designate enforcement free areas where no immigration activity can take place.
- **Halts Immigration Enforcement:** Creates an immigration enforcement holiday where no enforcement actions will occur for two and a half years.
- **Countless Waivers:** Under the Senate bill, wherever enforcement is mentioned, there is a waiver authority delegated to the Secretary of DHS, repeating many of the same problems we have today with the lack of immigration enforcement.

#5: Won't End Illegal Immigration: Despite all the money being spent in the bill that is supposed to secure our porous borders, the Congressional Budget Office has said that the Senate immigration bill will only reduce illegal immigration by one-third to one-half.

#6: Special Pathway to Citizenship: The Senate bill creates an entirely new, currently nonexistent path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. Also, the Senate bill decreases the time required for most immigrants to apply for naturalization from five to three years.

#7: Endangers Our Communities: Under the Senate immigration bill, the Secretary of DHS is provided with broad authority to waive criminal conduct, including gang affiliations, felony arrests, and multiple misdemeanor convictions. The bill allows the Secretary to waive background checks, does not require dangerous criminal aliens to be detained, and makes it easier for persecutors and human rights abusers to obtain immigration benefits. The bill also allows criminal immigrants to continue to commit and be convicted of criminal offenses after receiving provisional legal status, as long as the individual's convictions remain below the eligibility threshold. In addition, the bill allows those with multiple convictions to enter, remain, and not be subject to detention in the U.S.

#8: Releases Criminals Back onto the Streets:

Current law requires certain criminal immigrants who are in the process of being deported to be detained in order to protect the American people. However, the Senate bill undermines this commonsense requirement and instead allows dangerous criminals to be released back onto our streets, only to be monitored by advocacy organizations.

#9: Unworkable Ag Guestworker Program:

The Senate immigration bill contains an unworkable agricultural guestworker program that would subject farmers to unnecessary regulations and excessive litigation.

#10: Contains Slush Fund for Liberal

Activist Groups: Under the Senate bill, new grant programs are created that could provide \$150 million dollars to liberal activist groups like La Raza, Casa de Maryland, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. These taxpayer-funded grants are provided to organizations – without any audit or oversight provisions – in order to promote the new special pathway to citizenship through public information campaigns, to help unlawful immigrants apply for new immigration benefits, and to provide any other assistance considered useful to unlawful immigrants in the process.

Sample Op-ed

THE ROANOKE TIMES

roanoke.com

Nearly everyone agrees that we need to fix our nation's broken immigration system. The way for Congress to remedy this problem is to methodically look at each of the various components that need to be fixed and take any final bill through the traditional legislative process. Immigration reform is too important and complex to not examine each piece in detail.

By taking a step-by-step approach, Congress is able to reflect on past legislative mistakes and avoid making similar ones in the future. For example, nearly 30 years ago Congress passed and President Reagan signed into law the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, assuring the American people that it would fix our immigration system. We were promised tougher enforcement in exchange for the legalization of roughly three million people. But these promises were never kept and our immigration laws remain broken.

The failed attempt to pass a massive immigration bill in 2007 also points to the need for a step-by-step approach under the normal legislative process of hearings, markups, and a final vote. The authors of that bill took a top-down approach rather than starting from the ground up and examining each individual component. Consequently, once hidden details and unintended consequences of the bill came to light, the American people largely opposed it and the bill failed. The American people want to know how Congress plans to avoid these similar outcomes this time.

Both the House and the Senate recognize the importance of reforming our nation's immigration system and that is why both chambers are actively pursuing a solution to this issue. While it's true that many in the House, including myself, are concerned that the Senate's nearly 900-page bill repeats some of the same mistakes of the past, we're hopeful that we can produce better solutions.

The House Judiciary Committee, which I chair, has held numerous hearings on our immigration laws and we have already introduced several stand-alone bills that address particular issues within our immigration system. We plan to build upon this work to build consensus on these important issues in the weeks and months ahead. This process of regular order allows every representative to fully vet the issues and provides the opportunity to have the voices of the Sixth Congressional District and folks across the nation heard.

Immigration reform is not an easy task, yet a solution is not out of reach. By taking a methodical approach to these issues, it will help us craft better legislation that will benefit Americans and provide a workable immigration system. This will ensure we get immigration reform right this time so that we don't have the same problems in the future.

Congressman Bob Goodlatte represents the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia and is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Sample Script for Website Video

Make a Video to Explain the House's Approach to Immigration Reform

Right now Congress is engaged in a momentous debate on immigration reform. Nearly everyone agrees that we need to fix our nation's broken immigration system but the House and Senate are taking two very different approaches to solving this complex issue. While the Senate has passed a massive bill that contains many problematic provisions, the House is taking a step-by-step approach so that we carefully and methodically review each component of immigration reform in detail. We want to produce better solutions so that we have a workable immigration system for the years to come.

The way forward on immigration reform is much like buying a new home. You wouldn't buy a new home for your family by just surveying it from the outside. You would go room by room, conducting a thorough inspection, and examine the foundation to ensure that it will keep your home on solid footing. You would look for any flaws and determine if they could be corrected before you finalize the purchase. That's the common sense approach. And the same should be said for any immigration reform legislation that's produced by Congress.

History points to the need for this step-by-step approach. By now, we've all learned what happens when Congress rushes legislation and bypasses the American legislative process. In 2010, the House jammed the 2,700-page Obamacare bill through Congress without a single hearing or markup on the bill that was ultimately signed into law. Americans are now stuck with the consequences of this hasty decision—higher premiums, more taxes, over 20,000 pages in new regulations, and overall bad policy.

A step-by-step approach is also important because it allows Congress to reflect on past legislative mistakes and avoid making similar ones in the future. For example, nearly 30 years ago Congress passed an immigration overhaul bill, assuring the American people that it would fix our immigration system. We were promised tougher enforcement in exchange for the legalization of roughly three million people. But these promises were never kept and we are still living with the mistakes of this law. The American people want to know how Congress plans to avoid this similar outcome in the current debate surrounding immigration reform.

The House of Representatives has taken care to make sure we don't repeat history's mistakes. Since the beginning of the year, the House Judiciary Committee has convened nearly a dozen hearings on immigration, focusing on the three areas of our immigration laws that need to be fixed, and has approved four bills. Any immigration reform bill must improve our legal immigration programs, strengthen border security and the interior enforcement of our immigration laws, and find a way to fairly deal with those who live in the U.S. unlawfully.

By taking a step-by-step approach to immigration reform, we will help ensure that the end result is a real solution that will fix our broken immigration system for good. We must not rush to legislate—we need to thoroughly examine each component so that we avoid past mistakes. Immigration reform isn't a race; rather, it's about getting it right.

What Conservative Groups Are Saying

Dr. Russell Moore, *President*, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention:

“Evangelicals understand that our broken system is a moral issue; this isn’t just a legal issue, it isn’t a political issue or an economic issue only. It’s a moral issue and it’s been a stain on our country for too long. Now is the time for the country to come together for an immigration system that respects the God-given human dignity of every person.”

Grover Norquist, *President of Americans for Tax Reform*:

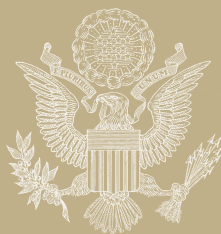
“It is my belief that a position in favor of more legal immigration and a fair and humane path to citizenship for those undocumented immigrants already here is wholly consistent with the ideals of the center-right movement I have worked my entire life to help build. I believe that free markets lead to economic growth and prosperity for all. This includes free and flexible labor markets, which will benefit not only those who wish to come here to pursue the American Dream, but also those of us blessed enough to have been born in the United States of America.”

Roll Call, *April 2, 2013*:

**“Club for Growth and FreedomWorks
to Sit Out Immigration Fight”**

**Joint letter from American Action Forum,
Americans for Tax Reform, and American Conservative Union:**

“We urge the House to take up a comprehensive package of immigration reforms— be it one bill or many – that secures our border, increases the legal flow of workers, and deals sensibly with the undocumented population.”



House Judiciary Committee

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