

The Threat of Open Borders
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As I hear more about the secret negotiations taking place among our elected representatives regarding illegal immigration, there's one thing that's becoming very clear. The Immigration Reform Bill which is currently being pushed through congress will do nothing to strengthen America's border security. President Bush and leaders of both political parties are touting this bill as the legislation that will secure our country's borders and prevent illegal aliens from entering the workplace. In reality, this bill is an expensive nightmare that will result in somewhere between 12 million and 30 million people, who broke the law, receiving amnesty and getting the opportunity to get a green card and move forward to citizenship. Politicians seem to be ignoring the fact that illegal immigration is a crime. Violators may be fined or imprisoned for up to six months. Repeat offenders may be imprisoned for up to two years and be subject to additional fines. Why would we ever set up a situation where criminals would be immediately pardoned and could become citizens, moving to the front of the line ahead of those who have legally entered our country and applied for citizenship? This is pure madness.

I am afraid that the Democrat-controlled House will adopt much of the Senate bill and send it to the president who will sign it into law. If that happens, it is the end of America as we know it. This will be the largest amnesty bill in history. In 20 years there will be more than 60 million additional legal immigrants in the US, many of whom will not assimilate into American society. 60% of illegal immigrants are high school drop outs. It has been estimated by the National Research Council that the current net fiscal cost of immigration in the US runs from \$11 billion to \$22 billion per year. If the proposed Immigration Reform Bill passes, the cost for increased social benefits (health care, education and welfare programs), additional criminal incarceration, tax-payer subsidized college tuition rates and Social Security benefits is estimated to be more than **\$6 trillion**. Approximately 30 percent of our country's prison population are illegal aliens. More than 10 million skilled jobs are now taken by illegal aliens. This number will increase dramatically as family members are allowed to join the existing illegal immigrants in this country.

By the way, this bill will result in the end of the Republican party as 73% of Hispanics (the majority race of most illegal aliens) voted Democrat in the 2006 mid-term election. Democrats know that every illegal alien that comes across the border with the capability of becoming a voting US citizen is most likely another vote for their political party. If the Republicans are dumb enough to endorse this bill then they deserve their fate!

So what should we do about illegal immigration? The most comprehensive and common sense proposal that I have read comes from the American Legion (<http://legion.org/>). Here's an outline of the proposal:

1. **Secure the borders and other entry points into the United States.** There can be no effective immigration reform without first securing the borders and coastline boundaries to this country.

2. **Eliminate the jobs magnet and cease awarding illegal aliens taxpayer sponsored social services benefits.** If the number of available jobs were reduced, there would be less incentive for illegals to remain in this country.
3. **No Amnesty.** Illegal immigrants should not receive legal permission to remain in the United States.
4. **Reduce the number of illegals in the United States.** Mass deportations of all illegals is not an option but deportation of select groups is an option and one that should be used.
5. **Effectively screen and track all foreign visitors.** A system for comprehensive screening, background checks and tracking on all foreign visitors while physically in the United States must be implemented.

In conclusion, immigration into our country should be regulated so that immigrants can be easily assimilated into American society. Assimilation by new citizens is important to the welfare of our great country. Remember our nation's motto, "E Pluribus Unum" ("From Many One"). Our country has become strong through the assimilation of legal immigrants from many countries. This has been our history and this is must be the vision for our future.

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