

FAIR FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

MARCH 2013

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Amnesty Plans Begin to Take Shape:

Obama and "Gang of Eight" Lay Out Their Visions of Immigration Reform

ague talk about immigration reform in the 113th Congress began to be fleshed out in late January as both President Obama and a group of eight senators laid out their frameworks for a bill. As expected, the centerpiece of both the president's vision for immigration reform and that of the so-called "Gang of Eight" is a massive amnesty for nearly all of the estimated 13 million illegal aliens living here.

President Obama unveiled his blueprint for immigration reform at a campaign-style rally at a Las Vegas high school. In an auditorium packed with students and other activists chanting "Si se puede" (Yes, we can), President Obama insisted that immigration reform must lead to citizenship for illegal aliens. "There will be no uncertainty about their ability to become U.S. citizens if they meet these eligibility criteria," he stated. The eligibility criteria include passing a cursory background check, paying back taxes (on what, no one is exactly clear), paying an undetermined penalty, and learning English.

The president delivered his Las Vegas address one day after eight senators, Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Michael Bennett (D-Colo.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), John McCain (R-Ariz.), and Mike Lee (R-Utah), unveiled a very similar framework for an immigration reform bill. Under both the president's and the Gang of Eight's plan, illegal aliens would immediately be granted the right to live, work, and receive certain benefits (including Obamacare) in the U.S. while they fulfilled certain requirements.

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UNDER BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE GANG OF EIGHT'S PLAN, ILLEGAL ALIENS WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO LIVE, WORK, AND RECEIVE CERTAIN BENEFITS IN THE U.S.

New Poll: Americans Favor Enforcement Over Amnesty

36%

ALLOW LEGALIZATION

37%

ELIMINATE INCENTIVES THAT

DRAW ILLEGAL ALIENS

national poll conducted by Pulse Opinion Research of 1,000 likely voters reveals a strong preference for enforcement of U.S. immigration laws as a way to deal with illegal immigration. The poll, commissioned by FAIR, found that 37 percent of likely voters favor a policy of "Encouraging ille-15% DEPORT gal immigrants to return ILLEGAL ALIENS home by removing jobs and benefits," while 15 percent favor simply "Deporting illegal immigrants." Only 36 percent said they support "Allowing illegal immigrants to legalize their status and remain here."

By offering a realistic alternative to mass amnesty or mass deportation eliminating incentives and job opportunities that have drawn illegal aliens here — FAIR's poll refutes many recent "push polls" that claim Americans now favor amnesty over enforcement.

At the very end of the Bush administration, effective workplace

Immigration

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FAIR Immigration Report

(ISSN 1067-3337) is published 10 times a year by the Federaton for American Immigration Reform a non-profit membership organization.

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enforcement — followed by the severe recession that dried up many jobs — demonstrated that illegal aliens respond rationally when jobs are not available, as the number of illegal aliens living in the U.S. shrunk. However, slight improvements in the labor market, coupled with the Obama administra-

tion's dismantling of immigration enforcement,

BY OFFERING A REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE, OUR POLL REFUTES RECENT "PUSH POLLS" THAT CLAIM AMERICANS FAVOR AMNESTY OVER ENFORCEMENT.

has led to a resurgence of illegal immigration.

The Pulse poll also found that Americans overwhelmingly believe that illegal immigration is harmful to American workers and taxpayers. A majority,

53 percent, agree that, "Illegal immigrants tend to harm American workers by accepting jobs at lower wages

than Americans are willing to work for, and, overall, harm our economy," compared with just 26 percent who think that, "Illegal immigrants tend to only take jobs that Americans will not do and, overall, benefit our economy."

A lopsided 66 percent agreed that, "Illegal immigrants are a net drain on public resources, using more in services like education and health care than they pay in taxes," while a mere 11 percent believe that, "Illegal immigrants are a net benefit to public resources, paying more in taxes than they use."

The poll also found widespread skepticism about promises that the government would

12%

NOT SURE

enforce immigration laws after an amnesty. Similarly, only 29 percent are confident of the government's ability to carry out an amnesty without sig-

SIXTY-NINE PERCENT EXPRESS LITTLE OR NO CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISES TO ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS.

69% GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ENFORCE LAWS

26%

GOVERNMENT WILL ENFORCE

LAWS

nificant fraud and with effective background checks on applicants. More than two-thirds, 67 per-

cent, do not believe that the government would conduct effective background checks on millions of amnesty applicants or be able to weed out fraudulent applications.

The poll was conducted in early February and has a margin of error of +/-3 percent.

ICE Officers Prohibited from Enforcing Immigration Laws, ICE Union Chief Testifies

President Obama, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, and congressional advocates for amnesty are assuring the American people that our immigration laws are being vigorously and effectively enforced. In testimony before the House Immigration Subcommittee in early February, Chris Crane, president of the National Immigration Council — the union representing Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel — took sharp exception to those claims. Crane flatly told the committee that immigration enforcement is "a joke."

The contention that illegal immigration is under control is the basis of the administration's case for moving forward with

amnesty for current illegal aliens. Crane's congressional testimony portrayed a very different picture of the state of immigration enforcement in the U.S.

"ICE has essentially prohibited its agents from enforcing" laws against illegal immigration except in cases where the alien has committed a serious felony, Crane stated. "ICE agents can't arrest aliens solely because they enter the United States illegally or because they overstayed their visas. It's basically not illegal anymore."



WHAT MESSAGE DO ICE PRACTICES SEND TO THE WORLD? THE MESSAGE IS WE DON'T ENFORCE OUR LAWS. -CHRIS CRANE, PRESIDENT NATIONAL IMMIGRATION COUNCIL TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE

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Amnesty Could Add \$300 Billion to Cost of Obamacare in First Decade

A side from being wrongheaded and unwarranted, amnesty for illegal aliens would also be prohibitively expensive. During the 2007 debate about amnesty, Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation estimated that the cost of amnesty could exceed \$2.6 trillion over the course of the amnestied aliens' lifetimes. And that was before enactment of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Illegal aliens are ineligible for benefits under the Affordable Care Act. However, amnesty would make them immediately eligible for coverage. According to the Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee, about 85 percent of current illegal aliens would be eligible for the public subsidies available to those whose incomes fall below 400 percent of poverty level. According to the Committee staff's estimate, adding the largely low-wage cohort of people who would be eligible for coverage under Obamacare would increase the federal cost of the program by between \$120 billion and \$200 billion during the first decade. The Budget Committee staff cautions, the costs could run as high as \$300 billion in the likely event that overall spending caps for the program are ignored. The Affordable Care Act is scheduled to take effect in 2014.

Taking a much longer term look at the cost of covering amnestied illegal aliens under Obamacare, the report estimates that amnesty could add \$2 trillion in unfunded liabilities to the system over the next 75 years.

Border Security Promises: Broken Before They're Made

President Obama, administration officials, and amnesty proponents are saying that our borders are already under control, or at least under "operational control," or at least more secure than they have ever been. Based on those assertions, they claim we can now move ahead with amnesty for current illegal aliens.

Convincing the American public that our borders are secure seems to be critical to their objective, but in public statements they appear unable to even convince themselves.

"WE WANT THE BORDER TO BE SECURE...BUT WE'RE NOT USING BORDER SECURITY AS AN EXCUSE OR BLOCK TO THE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP."

SENATE IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR CHUCK SCHUMER

"IF WE MADE THE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP CONTINGENT ON A SAFE AND SECURE BORDER, THEN IT'S IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, IT WILL ALWAYS BE SUBJECTIVE. THE IDEA BEHIND A METRIC IS TO HAVE SOMETHING MEASURABLE, AND WE BELIEVE WE CAN ACHIEVE THAT." SENATE MAJORITY WHIP DICK DURBIN

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, AND I DON'T THINK [SEN. RUBIO] DOES EITHER."

> SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID ON ACHIEVING "OPERATIONAL CONTROL" OF OUR BORDERS

During the amnesty debates in 2006/2007, FAIR effectively made the case that promises of future enforcement would not be kept. In 2013, it seems we will not have to make that case. The people who are making the promises are making that case more effectively than we possibly could.

FAIR IN ACTION Across the Country

Virginia

The Education and Health Committee of the Virginia Senate rejected legislation that would have provided in-state tuition benefits to illegal aliens. The committee's defeat of SB 1090 will likely derail efforts by the Virginia House to approve a similar in-state tuition bill. Sen. Jeff McWaters, one of the leading opponents of the measure, expressed concern that the bill would hurt legal residents as there are only a fixed number of college admission slots, which means that for every illegal alien admitted to college, a legal resident student will be turned away.

Montana

In November, about 80 percent of Montana voters approved a ballot initiative limiting illegal aliens' access to state benefits and to business and professional licenses. Responding to the overwhelming sentiment of voters, Rep. David Howard introduced legislation that would prohibit local governments from enacting sanctuary policies in Montana. In January, the Montana House of Representatives approved HB 50. The legislation now awaits action in the Montana Senate.

Ohio

Ohio officials, including Gov. John Kasich, Attorney General Michael DeWine, and the director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Mike Rankin, determined that illegal aliens who are granted temporary legal status in the U.S. under President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Admissions will not be eligible for Ohio licenses. Ohio law requires that driver's license applicants have "legal status" in the United States. While DACA beneficiaries are temporarily legally present in the United States, Ohio officials determined that only Congress has the authority to grant legal status.

Illinois

As expected, Gov. Pat Quinn signed SB 957, a bill granting temporary driver's licenses to illegal aliens, into law. Illegal aliens will now be eligible to receive licenses, although these licenses will not be valid for purposes of identification. Illinois has consistently adopted policies that benefit and encourage illegal immigration. Under SB 957, illegal aliens will now find it even easier to live and work illegally in Illinois. The signing ceremony included a good deal of fanfare, including a mariachi band and the distribution of 28 commemorative pens to mark the occasion when Illinois further undermined the integrity of U.S. immigration law.

Implementation of REAL ID Delayed Again

n 2005, Congress enacted the REAL ID Act. This law fulfilled many of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission on the need to enhance the security of our nation's vital identity documents. Among other things, the REAL ID Act set standardized requirements for state issued driver's licenses. These requirements were designed to close loopholes that make it easier for illegal aliens to live and work in the United States and to make it harder for terrorists to obtain fake identification documents.

THE REPEATED DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTING THE COMMON SENSE PROVISIONS OF REAL ID OFFER YET ANOTHER REMINDER THAT ANY PROMISES TO ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS AS PART OF AN AMNESTY PACKAGE FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE KEPT.

That was 2005. It's now 2013 and REAL ID has yet to be implemented. The most recent deadline for implementation was in January, but the Department of Homeland Security granted yet another postponement because only 13 states were found to be in full compliance with REAL ID requirements.

Opportunities for Easy Tax Deductions

It sounds hard to believe, but there are easy ways to make a gift to FAIR and lower your taxes at the same time. Gifts of insurance and retirement assets can provide you with valuable income and estate tax savings.

Life Insurance

Have you looked at your life insurance lately? Perhaps you have more coverage than you need. If you own an insurance policy that you no longer wish to maintain, consider donating it to FAIR. You will receive a charitable tax deduction and the proceeds will provide the support we need to further our efforts to reform America's immigration system.

Another option is to transfer ownership of your insurance policy to FAIR and make annual cash donations equal to the premium amount. Your annual gift will be used to maintain the policy and you will receive charitable deductions **each year**.

Retirement Assets

A gift of retirement assets is another easy way to generate tax benefits. You can continue to enjoy and make use of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) during your lifetime, but by designating FAIR as beneficiary of all or part of your plan, you will ensure the FAIR fight for sensible immigration reform will live on, and your estate will enjoy future tax savings.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT FOR TRUE IMMIGRATION REFORM THAT WILL HAVE LITTLE OR NO IMPACT ON YOUR LIFESTYLE. VISIT US AT 7GLEGACY.ORG TO FIND A PLAN THAT PROVIDES YOU WITH TAX BENEFITS AND LEAVES A LEGACY.



AMNESTY PLANS continued

In a conscious effort to deny that the plans amount to mass amnesty, obtaining a green card the first step in a "pathway to citizenship" — would likely stretch out over about a decade. However, under the President's plan, so-called DREAMers would be granted citizenship through an expedited process that would only require them to go to college or serve in the Armed Forces for at least two years.

Both plans include calls for expansion of already historically high levels of legal immigration, and neither would abolish the failed policy of family chain migration. In fact, the president's plan would increase flows of family-based migration by "recapturing" green cards and increasing visa caps. In addition, the White House proposal calls for raising country caps for family-based and employment-based green cards, and eliminating the country cap for employment-based visas.

Despite the fact that there is no evidence of a labor shortage in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields, the Obama and Senate frameworks call for "stapling green cards to diplomas" for foreign students who earn degrees in those fields. The Gang of Eight plan would also create a new guest worker program (in addition to the numerous ones that already exist) to allow employers even greater access to foreign labor, even as some 22 million American workers are either unemployed or relegated to part-time work.

The outlines include the requisite promises that immigration laws would be enforced in the future including the deployment of technology and manpower to secure the border. The proposals call for completion of the entry/exit control system (a promise that has already been made and not kept), although collection of exit data would be limited to airports and seaports, but not departures to Mexico or Canada across land borders.

The plans also call for establishing a national work eligibility verification system, although both the president's and the senators' plans pointedly avoid mentioning the current voluntary E-Verify system, which is already being used effectively by hundreds of thousands of employers. Under the Obama plan, the new mandatory system would be phased in over five years (assuming that, like REAL ID, implementation is not repeatedly postponed), during which time current illegal aliens would enjoy the benefits of amnesty, while millions more illegal aliens would have the opportunity to enter the country and find jobs.

If all this sounds familiar, it is. Both the Obama and Gang of Eight plans are close replicas of the failed 2007 immigration legislation that was resoundingly rejected by the American public. Illegal aliens would receive immediate amnesty followed by citizenship, business interests would gain access to new flows of foreign labor, while the American public would receive vague and worthless promises that laws would be enforced in the future, while enduring more competition for jobs and bearing the enormous social costs of legalizing millions of poorly skilled and poorly educated illegal aliens.

FAIR IS SPEARHEADING THE EFFORT TO INFORM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT THIS LATEST ATTEMPT TO REWARD ILLEGAL ALIENS AND CHEAP LABOR EMPLOYERS AT THEIR EXPENSE. DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS AFTER THE OBAMA AND GANG OF EIGHT PLANS EMERGED, FAIR REPRESENTATIVES APPEARED ON DOZENS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS TO DISCUSS HOW THESE PLANS WOULD DO IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE INTERESTS OF MOST AMERICANS.

OUR NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF ACTIVISTS, LED BY OUR FIELD STAFF, IS GEARING UP FOR THE TYPE OF GRASSROOTS EFFORT THAT ULTIMATELY DERAILED THE 2007 AMNESTY LEGISLATION.

OUR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STAFF IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS TO FIGHT EFFORTS BY THE AMNESTY AND MASS IMMIGRATION LOBBY TO MOVE LEGISLATION THROUGH CONGRESS THIS YEAR.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR MEMBERS AND ACTIVISTS IS EVEN MORE CRUCIAL IN 2013, AND WE URGE ALL CONCERNED AMERICANS TO BECOME PART OF THE EFFORT.

"What message do ICE practices send to the world?" Crane asked rhetorically. "The message is we don't enforce our laws. Come on over. And, if you get caught, just lie to us." Under the Obama administration's temporary amnesty program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, ICE agents are required to accept any claim at face value without any proof on the part of the alien that he/she is qualified to remain in the U.S.

Morale among ICE agents is at an all-time low, Crane told the committee. Any ICE officer



MORALE AMONG ICE AGENTS IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW. ANY ICE OFFICER ATTEMPTING TO UPHOLD HIS OR HER DUTY TO CARRY OUT THE LAW IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE AGENCY.

attempting to uphold his or her duty to carry out the law is subject to disciplinary action by the agency. "As our officers are investigated by ICE for enforcing U.S. immigration laws, they see other officers threatened with suspensions for making lawful arrests. Increasingly, officers feel that they have become the enemy of this administration," he said.

Crane's sworn testimony before Congress belies the self-serving claims of the Obama administration and supports FAIR's assertions that the immigration enforcement apparatus of government is being systematically dismantled. Included in an amnesty bill would be, in the words of the ICE employees union, "a joke."

REAL ID continued

Unlike the previous postponements, this time DHS didn't even bother to set a new date for implementation. Completely ignoring the will of Congress, DHS announced that at some point in the future it would create "a schedule for the phased enforcement of [REAL ID]'s statutory prohibitions to ensure that residents of all states are treated in a fair manner." A DHS press release indicates that the department intends to publish a schedule for implementing REAL ID by the fall of 2013, adding vaguely that implementation would occur at "a suitable date thereafter." In the meantime, many of the vulnerabilities exploited by the 9/11 terrorists remain.

The repeated delays in implementing the common sense provisions of REAL ID offer yet another reminder that any promises to enforce immigration laws as part of an amnesty package for illegal aliens are unlikely to be kept. While illegal aliens would reap immediate and irrevocable benefits from the signing of amnesty legislation, implementation of a universal work eligibility verification system could take decades to come online, if ever. ○ \$25 ○ Other \$_

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The name Seventh Generation Legacy Society is taken from the great law of the Iroquois Confederacy: "In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decision on the next seven generations."

Recognizing FAIR and its mission in your estate planning is a fine way to honor your concern for the nation's future while helping ensure the cause of true immigration reform.

Establishment of your gift is all that is required to recognize you as an honoree of this distinguished group.

Please contact our planned giving officer for information about how we can help you with your estate planning. We welcome the opportunity to tell you more about how your gift will ensure that our work survives long into the future.

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