

**PRESIDENT BUSH CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM AS NEW  
LEGISLATION IS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS**



by  
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In a speech delivered on July 24, President Bush again reiterated his support of comprehensive immigration reform by stating:

*I support a comprehensive immigration reform that will accomplish five clear objectives. First, we'll secure our borders. Second, we must create a temporary worker program that provides foreign workers a legal and orderly way to come into the country and do jobs Americans aren't doing. We must hold employers to account for the workers they hire. In other words, it's against the law to hire an illegal immigrant, and we're going to hold employers to account.*

*We must resolve the status of millions of illegal immigrants who are here already. We shouldn't be granting people automatic citizenship, nor is it possible to kick people out of the country. There's got to be a rational way, and I proposed a way forward. And, finally, we've got to honor the great American tradition of the melting pot by helping newcomers assimilate into our society.*

*Congress is now considering legislation on immigration reform; that legislation must be comprehensive. All elements of the problem must be addressed together, or none of them will be solved at all.*

It is clear from his remarks what the President means by “comprehensive” immigration reform – any immigration legislation must have both benefits (a temporary or guest worker program whereby the undocumented population has a path to permanent resident status) and enforcement measures (strengthening border security and ensuring that employers comply with the laws against hiring undocumented workers).

The President made his remarks at a time when yet another immigration bill (known as the “Good Neighbor SAFE Visa Program”) is set to be introduced in Congress which would break immigration reform up into two distinct phases – enforcement first, then (once it is determined that the border is secure) a guest worker program. It is beginning to look like that may be the only way for immigration reform to get passed at this point in time. The obvious question then becomes – if we do enforcement first, when will the temporary worker program come? The answer to that questions is far from clear.

According to Rep. Pence (one of the architects of this new plan), the Good Neighbor SAFE Visa Program requires that certain border security measures take place for the first 2 years after enactment. He further states that “After two years, if completed, and if certified as complete by the President to Congress, a no amnesty temporary worker program can begin.” It is difficult to see how the border can be secured in two years without a temporary worker program that will ease the pressure on the border. Thus, the benefits portion of this plan likely would be delayed beyond the anticipate two-year period. Stay tuned to [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com) for continuing updates on this immigration legislation.

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