



South Asian Network

A grassroots community-based organization dedicated to promoting the health, empowerment, and solidarity of persons of South Asian origin

New Immigration Proposal is Misleading, Separates Families, & Sharply Increases Harassment, Arrests & Deportations

Right now, the Senate is debating an immigration bill. The bill claims to provide legalization, but what it would actually do is separate families, charge immigrants huge penalties, and make it easier to arrest and deport anyone who is not a citizen. It does not address the root causes of why people come to the United States in the first place, or recognize the basic human rights of immigrants. If the bill becomes law, it would:

Eliminate & reduce many family-based immigrant visa categories by:

- Throwing out all family immigration petitions filed after May 2005. Anyone who filed a family petition after May 2005 would have to reapply under a new point system. The number of visas for parents would be reduced, and visas for adult children, brothers and sisters would be eliminated. Instead, they would have to apply under a new “point system.”
- The point system for family members would be based on their education, language, and job skills. Immigrants will be valued for their “usefulness” to the U.S. rather than on reuniting families. This will have tremendous impact on South Asians who have relied on the family-based immigration system for decades to reunite their families.

Create a legalization program that is really a “report to deport” program by:

- Requiring undocumented immigrants to apply for legalization with no guarantee that they would eventually get a green card.
- Requiring you to pay **\$4500** for an 8-year work permit and temporary “Z visa”, and **\$3500** for your spouse and each child. After that, you will have to pay all back taxes, an additional **\$4000** fine and filing fees for a green card.
- Forcing you return to your home country to apply for a green card under the new point system. You would have to wait in your home country for an unknown period of time.
- Preventing anyone who has ever used **false documents** or a **fake name** from legalizing. Anyone like this who applies would face criminal prosecution, jail time, and deportation. Unlike previous proposals, this bill does not include a pardon for immigrants who did not report to the government under the Special Registration program.
- Even if you are eligible, it is estimated that this process would take from 8 to 13 years.

Increase enforcement and require the following BEFORE the Z visa program could begin:

- Hire 20,000 Border Patrol agents who will continue to harass & intimidate people
- Construct 370 miles of fencing and a 300 mile barrier along the border

- Build more electronic surveillance equipment along the U.S.-Mexico border. Private corporations such as Boeing and Lockheed will benefit from the multi million dollar contracts to build these.
- Build the capacity to jail 31,700 immigrants, further separating families

Make it easier to **exploit workers** by:

- Requiring that Z visa holders maintain employment, which makes it harder for workers to come forward when their rights are violated for fear of getting fired and losing their and their family's chance to get a green card
- Expanding the electronic employment verification database that is already highly unreliable. Employers can use this to harass and discriminate against immigrant workers
- Creating a 2 year temporary worker program without any permanent status

Increase the arrests and deportations of ALL immigrants by:

- Allowing indefinite detention for months and even years while waiting to be deported
- Expanding the definition of "aggravated felonies" to include minor crimes for which anyone, including legal permanent residents, could be detained and deported
- Increasing local police's power to enforce immigration laws
- Expanding the definition of "gang" to an organization of 5 or more people who commit an offense and includes those associated with gangs in the past. Those considered to be in a "gang" will be deported.

TAKE ACTION!!!!!!

This bill benefits businesses and corporations, but harms families, workers, and immigrant communities. There is still time to voice your opinion.

1. Call Your Senators Now! Telephone Number: **1-800-417-7666**

We encourage you to share your personal story with your Senators and tell them:

- ✓ "I urge you to oppose the Senate immigration bill."
- ✓ "South Asians want legislation that will reunite our families quicker, does not continue militarizing the border, and does not increase detention or the criminalization of immigrants."
- ✓ "We need Immigration Reform that Protects the Human Rights of All Immigrants!"

2. Join SAN in our protests, educational forums, and other actions against the Immigration Bill! **Call Shiu Ming or Joyti at (562) 403-0488** to share your story with us and to be included on our "take action" list.

STOP THIS BILL!

STAND & DEMAND HUMAN RIGHTS!

For more information, contact Shiu Ming or Joyti at South Asian Network:

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