



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

<http://judiciary.house.gov/>

News Advisory

For immediate release
August 23, 2006

Contact: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn
202-225-2492

House Judiciary Committee Field Hearing in New Hampshire Thursday

Examining Staggering Costs of Reid-Kennedy and How Amnesty Affects Taxpayers, Fundamental Fairness, and the Rule of Law

What: Oversight Hearing titled, “The Reid-Kennedy Bill’s Amnesty: Impacts on Taxpayers, Fundamental Fairness and the Rule of Law”

Who: House Judiciary Committee – Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.), Chairman

When: 10:00 a.m., Thursday, August 24, 2006

Where: Hall of Representatives – The State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently estimated the 10-year cost of the Senate’s immigration legislation (“Reid-Kennedy”) at \$127 billion. Thursday’s hearing will explore the staggering costs of Reid-Kennedy and how the bill’s massive amnesty would impact taxpayers, the fairness of this massive amnesty to legal immigrants, and the message this massive amnesty would send to both legal and illegal immigrants.

ISSUES...

- ✓ **FISCAL COSTS OF AMNESTY** – Dr. Steven Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) has calculated that the net fiscal cost per year to the federal government for illegal immigrant households receiving amnesty would increase by 180% over the pre-amnesty level to an average of \$7,668. Thus the Reid-Kennedy amnesty would add a net burden to federal taxpayers of \$18.4 billion per year. Costs would likely rise for state and local governments as well because those receiving amnesty would be eligible for some state and local benefit programs.
- ✓ **FAIRNESS TO THOSE ATTEMPTING TO LEGALLY IMMIGRATE** – Amnesty is inherently unfair to those patiently trying to legally immigrate to the U.S.
- ✓ **OTHER PROBLEMS WITH AMNESTY** – Providing amnesty to illegal immigrants: 1) rewards lawbreaking; 2) encourages others to come to the U.S. illegally; 3) unfairly provides benefits to illegal immigrants that are not available to legal immigrants; and 4) sends the message that the U.S. is not serious about enforcement of immigration law, and that if a person stays in the U.S. illegally long enough, eventually he or she will receive amnesty.

WITNESSES: Hon. Andrew Renzullo, N.H. House of Representatives; Dr. Steven Camarota, Center for Immigration Studies; Mr. Peter Gadiel, President, 9/11 Families for a Secure America; Dr. John

Lewy for the American Academy of Pediatrics; and **Mr. John Young**, Co-Chair of the Agricultural Coalition for Immigration Reform.

####