



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

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Holds Immigration Field Hearing Wednesday in San Diego

Examining the Impact of Illegal Immigration on American Taxpayers

What: Oversight Hearing on “How Does Illegal Immigration Impact American Taxpayers and Will the Reid-Kennedy Amnesty Worsen the Blow?”
Who: House Judiciary Committee - Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.), Chairman
When: 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 2, 2006
Where: Bayview Restaurant at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego
USE GATE #1 OFF OF BARNETT AVE.

Legal and illegal immigrants have different impacts upon U.S. taxpayers based upon their skills and characteristics. Because illegal immigrants tend to be low skilled and poorly educated, illegal immigrants have a negative impact upon taxpayers based upon the social services they consume and the taxes they pay. Legal immigrants, by contrast, do not have the same negative impact. The Reid-Kennedy plan likely would be a tremendous burden upon U.S. taxpayers because of education, health care, law enforcement, and federal government assistance programs costs associated with its massive amnesty for illegal immigrants.

BACKGROUND...

- ✓ **EDUCATION COSTS** – According to a 2005 Pew Hispanic Center study, there are 4.9 million children in families headed by illegal immigrants in the U.S. With public school education costs averaging \$7,700 per year per student, this comprises the largest burden upon U.S. taxpayers.
- ✓ **HEALTH CARE COSTS** – The same Pew Hispanic Center study found about 59% of adult illegal immigrants do not have health insurance. The *New York Times* reported on July 18th that “[i]n California, hospitals spend at least \$1.02 billion last year on health care for illegal immigrants that was not reimbursed by federal or state programs.”
- ✓ **LAW ENFORCEMENT COSTS** – The U.S. Justice Department reports there are 55,832 noncitizens in state prisons. While no accurate data exists for local jail costs associated with incarcerating illegal immigrants, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that cost to the LA County jail alone at \$55 million in 2003.
- ✓ **FEDERAL BENEFIT COSTS** – Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation believes the Reid-Kennedy’s amnesty for illegal immigrants will cost tens of billions of dollars due, in part, to illegal immigrants being allowed to sponsor their parents for permanent residence in the U.S. These parents could themselves become U.S. citizens, and they would be eligible for two very expensive federal programs – SSI and Medicaid.

WITNESSES: Hon. Michael D. Antonovich, L.A. County Supervisor; Mr. Kevin J. Burns, Chief Financial Officer, University Medical Center, Tucson; Mr. Robert Rector, The Heritage Foundation; Mr. Leroy Baca, L.A. County Sheriff; and Prof. Wayne Cornelius, University of California, San Diego.

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