



Congressman Trent Franks, 2nd District of Arizona

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Dear Friends,

Immigration: One of the most important issues facing our country is illegal immigration. Over the past few weeks I have heard from literally thousands of constituents in response to the "comprehensive immigration reform bill" introduced in the Senate. I am unable to support this bill as introduced in the Senate for two main reasons. First, while America is a nation of immigrants, we must not reward those who have entered the country illegally with benefits denied to the law-abiding individuals who have chosen to undertake the legal path to citizenship. Second, in an age of international terrorism, ***I cannot and will not support legislation that does not place the need for border security as our single most important priority.*** The Senate bill has yet to be introduced in the House of Representatives; however, as this issue increasingly becomes the central topic of debate in Congress, I assure you I hear your voices. I will continue to keep you informed as immigration reform legislation progresses in Congress.

National Defense: On May 17th, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act for the Department of Defense, which authorized \$503.8 billion for the Department of Defense (DoD) and other national security programs. While being amended in the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, the Democrats reduced \$764 million in funding for Ballistic Missile Defense from the President's budget. In doing so, several vital programs were either abandoned altogether, such as conceptual studies for the Space Test Bed, or were relegated to becoming nothing more than elaborate research projects, instead of crucial layers to our national defense system. This included the Airborne Laser, our most promising and mature missile defense system designed to interdict an enemy missile in the "boost phase," where it is most vulnerable. Our most basic responsibility as Members of Congress is to provide for the security of both the American people and our war fighters abroad. Therefore, when the bill came before the House, I offered an amendment that would have restored full funding for missile defense. While the amendment itself failed by a vote of 199-226, I was heartened by the fact that Republicans, as well as 13 Democrats who departed from a party-line vote, rallied to support a strong and robust missile defense, recognizing

Immigration Opinion Survey

"Over the past few weeks, a bi-partisan group of senators introduced a "comprehensive immigration reform" bill that would, while fortifying the border, also grant indefinite guest-worker status to current illegal immigrants, and make it possible for illegal aliens to obtain citizenship without undergoing the already existing legal route. Do you feel this is a good immigration compromise?"

- Yes, this is an acceptable solution.
- No, this is still a form of amnesty.
- Unsure.

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the urgent need to provide for the security of our nation.

"Grassroots lobbying": You may remember hearing of a "grassroots lobbying" law which aimed to impose 10 year prison sentences onto the efforts of religious leaders and political activists who encourage citizens to voice their views to Congress, if these activists failed to fully disclose all such grassroots political speech to the federal government for review and monitoring. Some experts called this proposal to shut down the conservative grassroots the greatest assault on First Amendment freedoms in U. S. history. As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, I served as the first line of defense in the Congress against this assault by preventing the sponsor of this regulation from introducing his amendment in my Subcommittee and by speaking out steadfastly against the law. My office worked for months with Republican leadership, who looked to us to lead the charge in the final defeat of this language in the full Judiciary Committee. We were successful because of the justice of our cause, our commitment to the Constitution, and because thousands of Americans like you exercised the very rights of free speech that the legislation tried to destroy, by contacting Congress and making your outrage known. Together, we won this fight, and it will not be the last."

Most sincerely,



Congressman Trent Franks

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