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## Can Amnesty Solve America's Immigration Woes?

As I can tell, the current positions on Illegal Immigration by the Obama Administration are:

- Amnesty with a secured border to slow down the flow,
- Promotion of the Dream act that somehow translates to 14<sup>th</sup> amendment rights for children,
- Amnesty with a path to citizenship that is undefined at this time.

This all sounds like a plan with no details; a “wish list” until another election. American leadership must either continue to enforce the laws that the current Executive Branch selectively ignores, or encourage a movement to change them. After all, laws are only as effective as our commitment to enforcement them. How long can we wait?

Amnesty diminishes the allegiance of the immigrants who followed the legal process. It questions our approach to National Security, increases crime, promotes tax evasion, and has public health challenges. Currently, there are millions of people with no fingerprints on record, have false or no ID's, birth records, health records, visas or passports. This causes confusion and worry during a Great Recession.

During the Great Depression in 1932, more people left the country than immigrated. Hopefully history doesn't repeat itself!

It hurt the US when my hero, Ronald Regan favored amnesty for Illegal Immigrants during the Cuban Boat Crisis of 1986. It caused all of the havoc that Castro intended in a much smaller scale than today. Fidel cleaned out the jails and allowed Cubans to board boats, encouraging them to leave in a risky attempt to gain a better life, just 90 miles away. After all, times were tough in Cuba.

There were a million immigrants in 1986, a number far less than the estimated 14 million Illegals seeking amnesty today. Once we waived a magic wand, they were not required to speak English or even have knowledge of how our government works. Regan's rationale then was covered under the 1980 Refugee Act; boat

people were “refugees.” He couldn’t just let them die, and if they were sent back to Cuba, who knows what would have happened.

In the past few years, former President Fox of Mexico promoted a similar move, encouraging the Northern part of Mexico to “seek their fortune” by crossing the border. Today, President Calderon is more cooperative with the United States to stop the flow, but Narcoterrorism is his biggest challenge. Last year 3,000 Mexicans were murdered no more than 300 feet from the US border. It gravely affects the United States as well, not to mention a Border Patrol agent who was shot and killed during the past Christmas holiday.

These agents risk their lives daily protecting a broken system. I watch TV reality shows like “Boarder Wars” on National Geographic and am shocked at how undermanned they are. Can the United States Government do a better job securing the boarder? Sure it can.

For example, take Area 51 in Nevada. It is a very secure government sight the size of a small State. I’ve seen it and it is impenetrable. Unwelcome visitors there will be stopped and arrested in the name of national security.

My parents were immigrants. They had to speak English (for safety reasons in the factories and coal mines), pass a citizenship test, stay out of trouble, have a public health and birth record to verify their age and lineage, pay taxes on all of their earnings, and had total buy-in to the “American Dream”. People who “break in” and come illegally can’t possibly have the same “buy in”.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) continues to prioritize enforcement of the laws by the hottest crisis of the moment. They are getting more support, deporting more criminals, but are still unable to keep on top of the numbers.

My late daughter Tessa and her friend Allison Kunhardt were killed in Virginia Beach by a repeat DUI offender, an Illegal with a fake driver’s license. He was handed off many times and was not a priority call to ICE for deportation. Tessa has a Grandmother, Anita Carson from Chihuahua, Mexico. Her “Noni” was an immigrant who worked on B-17’s during WWII in San Diego. She is appalled that migrants would get the same rights to citizenship by sneaking across the border. *The Hispanics I know generally are concerned about their America as well, and*

*worry that the current administration focuses on potential Hispanic votes, and not about American Hispanic safety and prosperity.*

Once again, these and many more victims of crimes committed by illegal immigrants are lost in the justice system, sometimes invisible or waiting under a deportation order. There are many, many more stories like this. In Sanctuary Cities, ICE doesn't even get a call, which is another problem driven by politics. So how long will it be until America finds a fair solution?

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