

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

The immigration bill is proceeding toward a vote and yet members of the Senate still do not have an estimate from the bill's sponsors of the future flow of immigration that will occur.

It appears your bill would authorize legal status for 30 million immigrants over the next 10 years and provide work authorization to many millions more through nonimmigrant visas.

The public, and the Senate, are entitled to hear directly from the bill's sponsors about just how many people will be given legal status under this proposal over the next decade. Only then can we fully understand the implications for the 90 million Americans who are not in the labor force, many of whom are either unemployed or have simply given up looking for a job.

We would therefore ask that you provide a detailed estimate of the total number of individuals—both immigrant and nonimmigrant—who will be granted some form of legal status or work authorization over the next 10 years. Specifically, this number is to include, over a 10-year period:

1. The total number of green cards that will be issued, including the clearing of past applications no longer subject to the annual cap (the so-called backlog);
2. An estimate of chain migration, particularly in light of the removal of caps on immediate family members of green card holders and in light of the expedited status for those who qualify for the DREAM and Ag fast-track. This should also include an estimate of chain migration ensuing from the roughly 7 million illegal immigrants whose green cards may not be issued until after the 10th year after enactment;
3. The total number of illegal immigrants and visa overstays who will be granted work authorization and legal status;

4. The total number of student visas to be issued and an estimate of chain migration ensuing from the proposed dual intent feature of the student visa;
5. The total number of nonimmigrant visas that will be issued, including a specific breakdown of the number with work authorization and how many of those family members admitted with the nonimmigrant workers will also have work authorization.

Thank for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,




