



WINNING IMMIGRATION AT THE GRASSROOTS:

Defeating Amnesty and Restoring Common Sense



An amnesty plan fit for an emperor, not America

By Dan Stein

President Obama's executive order on amnesty is long and complex. Take a speed reading course and here's what you can find out: nobody goes home unless the president decides you are unworthy of his beneficence.

The president has drawn arbitrary lines in the sand. Some people have to have been here five years or more, others not. He did not include parents of those who received earlier Obama amnesty grants, but instead made sure other relatives got his special treatment.

Can this possibly be a power delegated to the president by Congress? Of course not. It leaves the plenary power of Congress to set immigration limits and standards shivered in fragments, along with our system of checks and balances.

Forget Mr. Obama's claims of fine legal distinctions or the bogus excuses about limited resources. These amnesty terms really are arbitrary. The president operates on a political whim, pursuing whatever he thinks is feasible politically.

Mr. Obama is very close to organizations and people who want to destroy U.S. immigration controls. He is, as Saul Alinsky called it, close to the "scene of conflict." The famous radical said, "One's concern with the ethics of means and ends varies inversely with one's distance from the scene of the conflict." Mr. Obama isn't near the conflict; he now is the conflict.



can stop him, and this cannot be sustained in a democracy. Here is the core of this argument: The administration believes no one has legal standing to challenge him in court, so his distinctions are purely

and law abiding Americans. Mr. Obama knows this. In responding, the Republican leadership is already confused and fearful of being out-manuevered again. Impeachment is neither contemplated nor threatened. Announced so far? Possible defunding and, later, passing bills he might veto?

Whatever the new Republican Congress does, it must do so with the expectation that Mr. Obama is not done with his radical overhaul of U.S. immigration policy by executive fiat. The sweeping amnesty he announced on Nov. 20 was only the culmination of a long series of orders and decisions gutting immigration law enforcement that included the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program – another massive unlegislated amnesty that went largely unchallenged. He has continued this outrage nonstop since then. His new executive order will be followed by more and more illegal actions over the next two years.

Naturally, the new Congress must pass an explicit bar to try to prevent the president from carrying out these executive orders. He will veto, of course, and in doing so prove this has nothing to do with his claims of limited resources and everything to do with trying to re-engineer this society.

But they must do more. They must realize the severity of the threat, the express loss of national self-determination indicated by a wholesale collapse in the rule of law.

Congress has been assaulted, demeaned and marginalized. The president will do more and more, in an effort to further embarrass, humiliate and provoke the Republican leadership. It must confront this president, and assert the broad principles that underscore our constitutional system. Congress must do so with an eye toward what will surely be these next two years “a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object (that) evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism.”

The precedent sought by President Obama will make the nation ungovernable, in time. No nation in recorded history has survived the sustained loss of border control. Despite the ill-named myth of American exceptionalism, neither can the United States.

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Dan Stein is the President of Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization that promotes reforming U.S. immigration policies to serve the national interest.

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The president is now outside the law and the Constitution. He believes he cannot be stopped. That's why, despite disclaimers to the contrary, he is acting like an emperor. The core threat to the United States is that his administration believes it can be lawless so long as no alien is denied a benefit. The president can admit whoever he wants; he can grant amnesty to whoever he wants; he can give out American jobs to whomever he wants; he can force taxpayers to pay for all manners of benefits. He thinks no one

political, not legal. He could just decree everyone gets to stay with work cards. He could decree unlimited benefits for them all. He believes no court will review his policies. He may be right, but those who oppose him will do whatever they can to prove him wrong.

The longer an alien remains in the country illegally – especially with granted benefits such as work documents – the more difficult it is to ever remove them. Delay works in favor of the illegal alien and against taxpayers



TRUE Immigration Reform:

Everyone agrees that our dysfunctional immigration system must be fixed, but efforts by our lawmakers have ultimately failed for one simple reason: the interests of the American people have been consistently ignored. So, while many lawmakers say they support immigration reform, the real question is whether they support TRUE immigration reform: policies that place the interests of the American people first.

Protecting the interests of Americans is the reason our immigration laws exist. Excessive immigration harms American workers, taxpayers, and our most vulnerable citizens. That's why we have to set and enforce limits.

No more amnesties. We can create clever euphemisms, but the only people we will be fooling are ourselves. Any policy that legalizes illegal aliens is amnesty and will lead to even more illegal immigration. This includes any "pathways to citizenship" or legalization programs that grant green cards or work visas.

Secure our borders. Only 13 percent of our borders are under "operational control." That is simply unacceptable. To get the job done, we must use all the tools at our disposal. We must put more boots on the ground, add infrastructure (such as fencing) and implement proven technology to reduce the flow of illegal aliens across the border.

End visa overstays. Approximately 30-40 percent of illegal aliens are aliens who entered the U.S. legally, but overstayed their visas. To end this practice, we must add Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and finally implement a biometric entry-exit system at all ports of entry—a system already required by law.

Stop the hiring of illegal workers. Unless we remove the incentives to enter the U.S. illegally, we will not stop illegal immigration. We must eliminate the jobs magnet by requiring all employers use E-Verify and demand rigorous worksite enforcement that holds both employers and illegal workers accountable.

Robustly and uniformly enforce our immigration laws. Policies that direct law enforcement to ignore violations of our laws undermine the rule of law and are inherently unjust to law-abiding legal immigrants. We must enforce our existing immigration laws, eliminate fraud throughout the system, and prohibit the adoption of policies by state/local governments that encourage illegal immigration or provide benefits to illegal aliens. Enforcement doesn't require mass deportation. If we enforce our laws and remove the incentives to remain here, many illegal aliens will go home on their own.

Implement a merit-based immigration system. Our immigration system should choose immigrants based on an objective assessment of who is most likely to benefit the economic and social interests of our nation.

End family chain migration. Family-based immigration must be limited to spouses and unmarried minor children. Entitlements for extended family migration lead to an immigration system that is not based on merit, runs on autopilot and fosters exponential growth in immigration.

Support the American worker. American workers are the best and most productive in the world. They are eager to work. What they need is the opportunity to compete for jobs at fair wages, not unfair competition created by massive guest worker programs. In addition, just because we could benefit from some skilled immigration doesn't mean we should rubber stamp visas for every applicant with certain skills. We should develop and encourage our own STEM professionals, not discourage them by flooding the labor market.

Limit overall immigration. We are a nation of over 315 million people. We need to consider how much we want to grow and how that growth will affect jobs, our environment, resources and quality of life in America.


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IMMIGRATION REFORM

Obama's Lawlessness the Greatest Obstacle to Immigration Reform

By Newt Gingrich

Complete contempt for the country, the Congress, and the Constitution is the only explanation for President Obama's decision to offer amnesty to millions of people here illegally by presidential fiat.

Voters on Nov. 4 gave the president the opposite of a mandate. They installed his political opponents in virtually every office that was seriously contested, and in many that had been thought incontestable. Republicans now hold a near-historic majority in the House, a likely majority of 54 in the Senate, 31 Republican governorships, the largest number of Republican state legislators in history, and the largest number of state legislative bodies in history.

Voters disapproved overwhelmingly of the president's plan to try to grant amnesty and work permits by executive order. An exit poll conducted by Kellyanne Conway's The Polling Company found that 74 percent wanted Mr. Obama to work with Congress on immigration rather than go around it. Only 20 percent said they wanted the president to take action on his own. In liberal Oregon, nearly 70 percent of voters rejected a ballot measure to give drivers licenses to people in the country illegally.

In his first press conference after the election, President Obama essentially told the American people he doesn't care; that he'd proceed with "executive actions" anyway. A few days later, the president delivered on that promise.

Professing to want a "comprehensive" immigration law, the Mr. Obama has promised his amnesty scheme will "go away" once Congress passes a bill giving him what he wants.

If the President wants immigration reform, as he says, and believes, as he says, that it's an urgent priority facing the country, his attempt at executive amnesty is self-defeating. Nothing could do more to ensure no major immigration bills pass during his presidency.

Obama refused to wait even until the new Republican Congress is sworn in to see if a Republican House and Senate can work together to produce proposals

he could sign. His actions now risk turning a question of policy into a Constitutional crisis, in defiance of a country which just repudiated his position.

The president's decision to use his executive powers to refuse to deport millions of people here illegally and give them work permits essentially



creates law from scratch. After all, Congress has repeatedly refused to put such a policy into effect.

The responsibility of the president, under the Constitution, is not to create new law. It's to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." Ironically, with his executive amnesty, President Obama not only abrogated his responsibility as the executive (by refusing to enforce the law) but he assumed the legislative function that is Congress's alone. And he did so not in an area of law where Congress has been silent, but in open defiance of Congress on an issue it has been very clear about.

Such actions are far beyond the power of his office, and they fundamentally challenge the Constitutional framework that has governed the country for two and a half centuries.

His actions will likely destroy Mr. Obama's chance of getting the immigration bill he claims to want. How could legislators reward a president who willfully upends the Constitutional order? For Congress to give in to his demands by sanctioning his illegal actions after the fact would do permanent damage to the institution of representative government.

The president must know this. Which makes his attempt at executive amnesty a stunningly cynical calculation for any president, nonetheless one who pledged to move beyond partisanship. It's a cynical use, too, of the millions of people who are in a bad

situation and who certainly did not come here to live under the law of one man who views his powers as virtually unlimited. Almost everywhere in the world, that's what they're running away from. Now that they're here, the President wants to use them in a political game designed to split the Republican Party.

The path the president has chosen has as much chance of devastating his own ability to get anything done in the next two years as it does of embarrassing Republicans. Americans are not likely to tolerate lawlessness -- not from their immigration system and not from their president.

Summary Demographic National Data (and Source)

Population (2010 CB est.)	308,745,538
Population (2000 CB est.)	281,421,906
Foreign-Born Population (2011 CB est.)	40,377,860
Foreign-Born Population (2000 CB est.)	31,107,889
Share Foreign-Born (2011)	13.0%
Share Foreign-Born (2000)	10.1%
Naturalized U.S. Citizens (2011 CB est.)	18,142,197
Share Naturalized (2011)	44.9%
Legal Immigrant Admission (DHS 2001 – 2011)	10,436,527
Refugee Admission (HHS 2000 – 2011)	808,063
Illegal Alien Population (2010 FAIR est.)	11,900,000
Costs of Illegal Aliens (2009 FAIR)	\$83,665,408,222
Projected 2050 Population (2006 FAIR)	460,681,000

Protecting American workers during the immigration debate

By Rick Santorum

For the past decade, perhaps the one issue that has crossed partisan lines yet created a national divide is our nation's immigration policy. And now that President Obama has issued an executive order granting amnesty to millions of Americans, we have to discuss how this impacts American workers.

Those on the left stand for open borders and amnesty because they believe national borders discriminate against the poor in the world, and they are counting on the new immigrants providing the Democrat Party with an expanding base of voters.

The corporate community has advocated amnesty because new immigrants will work for less while increasing their bottom line. Big Business sees immigrants and existing U.S. citizens as a commodity whose price needs to be kept down.

But in between these two forces are average Americans who have borne the brunt of this economic recession with stagnant wages and a decline in median income. Under our current immigration system and de facto amnesty for existing illegal aliens (this administration simply doesn't deport anyone unless they have committed another serious crime in the U.S.) we have flooded America with competition for our lower-skilled workers.

At its core are three buzz terms that will define the future of the American worker:

1. Legal immigration;
2. Illegal immigration; and,
3. Amnesty

Legal immigration policy is a decision of numbers and categories. There are many categories, such as the chain migration or the visa lottery. But only 15 percent of immigration is skills-based. America over the last 20 years has accepted more legal immigrants than any other 20-year period in our history, averaging over 1 million immigrants per year. The Senate bill that the President supports doubles that historically high number.

Illegal immigration is a matter of illegal inflows and outflows of people. The core illegal-immigration questions are what, if any, set of measures should be taken to reduce inflows and increase outflows of illegal aliens? If enough measures are taken, there will be a net outflow of illegal aliens.

Amnesty is when government grants an illegal alien a work permit

or other right to live in the U.S. We now know that millions of illegal immigrants will be able to stay here because of Mr. Obama's executive order.

However we solve this challenge, we should agree that the interest of the American worker comes first. As former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan (D-Tex.) said when she chaired President Bill Clinton's U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform: "It is both a right and a responsibility of a democratic society to manage immigration so that it serves the national interest. The national

interest comes first, last, and always."

This bipartisan consensus under the Clinton administration is now portrayed as chauvinistic or even xenophobic by the Obama White House. Progressives are increasingly vocal about their lack of concern for the American worker. For example, The New Republic recommended that America quickly allow itself to become a majority-foreigner country in order to alleviate global income inequality. Immigration policy as foreign aid?

Five billion people live in countries poorer than Mexico, so it would take a vast increase in immigration to impact global income inequality. Today's level of legal and illegal immigration from all countries is only 1/30th of 1% that.

Based on the simple laws of supply and demand, these continued high levels of immigration will result in lower levels of

income, all else being equal. While I admit that all else is not equal and there are other factors affecting wages and median income, the facts are clear, real wages have been flat since 2000, and declined for the least skilled, despite a decade-and-a-half of technological progress. Clearly one of the most likely culprits is the present level of immigration.

We also know something else has happened during this unprecedented wave of legal immigrants. There have been roughly six million net new jobs created. On balance, how many of those new jobs have gone to native-born workers?

None! All of the net-job gains since 2000 have gone to workers born outside the US.

We also know that there is something to the argument that technology, while helpful in improving living standards has made it more difficult to create good jobs at good wages like we used to. Today 70% of Americans don't have college degrees and a large fraction of college graduates don't work in college-level jobs. Our country must provide more net less opportunity for them.

I hear all the time: "there are jobs American won't or can't do!"

True, farm field-work on the one side and the very highest levels of technical talent on the other fit that description. For the first, the existing H-2A agricultural guest worker program can be made very reliable and affordable for farmers and ranchers. For the second, the present levels of employment immigration can be reworked to screen out mediocrity and admit the most talented more quickly.

Details are important, but the most important issue is the goal.

If America still believes the guiding principle behind any change in policy must be, as Barbara Jordan said, "in the national interest," the policy recommendations will follow naturally. These include focusing legal immigration on nuclear-family immigration and current levels of employment-based immigration, while creating a net outflow of illegal immigration through a mix of immigration-security measures and work-eligibility checks.

It's time to put politics and profits aside and side with our national interest - the average working American.

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ILLUSTRATION: LINAS GARSYS

How amnesty and Ferguson are connected

By Roy Beck

Communities like Ferguson, Mo., should have been on the mind of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson when he testified about the president's latest executive amnesty at a congressional hearing Tuesday.

Ferguson has inadvertently drawn the national media spotlight as an epitome of communities across America that are besieged by the effects of constantly loose labor markets where there are far more workers than jobs.

Of course, it was a police shooting that sparked the months of civil unrest and a national debate about law enforcement relations with African American communities. But most media also reported on an important side story of intense economic frustration of Ferguson residents about declining real wages and employment rates. They quoted residents and experts saying the effects of the loose labor market helped fuel the rage on the streets.

President Obama's announcement of immigration policy changes just before the Missouri grand jury report has raised many questions about whether opening up most U.S. jobs to millions of illegal aliens would be harmful to communities which already have an over-supply of workers.

Quizzed about it Tuesday, Mr. Johnson brushed aside any connection, delivering the administration's standard claim that the federal government can continue to add millions of foreign workers into a loose labor market without any particular consequences to struggling American workers. Jobs for Americans are "a separate issue" from work permits for illegal aliens, he said.

Let's go back to Ferguson for a closer look of what it is like to live in the midst of a loose labor market.

The Brookings Institution noted a long decline in the percentage of Ferguson residents working, and the one-third drop in real income among those who do have jobs: "Amid these changes, poverty skyrocketed," Brookings' Elizabeth Kneebone wrote. "Between 2000 and 2010-2012, Ferguson's poor population doubled. By the end of that period, roughly one in four residents lived below the federal poverty line."

People who live in such concentrations of poverty can be excused for thinking that the nation's economy has no need for them. And it isn't surprising that many feel they have been abandoned by their government and fellow citizens.

Brookings found that Ferguson

is not unusual. Examining suburban neighborhoods in the 100 largest metropolitan areas, it found that in the first dozen years of this century there was a doubling of communities in which more than 20 percent of residents live below the poverty line.

"By 2008-2012, 38 percent of poor residents in the suburbs lived in neighborhoods with poverty rates

60.5 percent for Hispanics. For Black Americans, the decline has been from 66.1 percent to 56.9 percent.

Nearly half of working-age black Americans no longer have jobs. It is no wonder that so many feel that their government has stacked the deck against them.

Many politicians look at these individual communities and suggest that

make different decisions about where to locate facilities near where large surpluses of jobless Americans live?

When I met with Secretary Johnson last spring, I discussed with him the government data showing that millions of jobless Americans are of similar education levels as the illegal aliens. Thus, I pointed out, they are looking for full-time work in the very occupations where the amnestied illegal aliens are most likely to apply once nearly all U.S. jobs are opened up to them.

These do not look like separate issues.

For months, we have all been subjected to depressing images and sounds about the economic hopelessness of many in Ferguson. Those images and sounds can be found all across the country. It is difficult to imagine much economic hope in those communities without tighter labor markets, the opposite of the president's desires for millions more immigrant work permits.

Roy Beck is author of *The Case Against Immigration* (W.W. Norton) and president of the *NumbersUSA Education & Research Foundation*.

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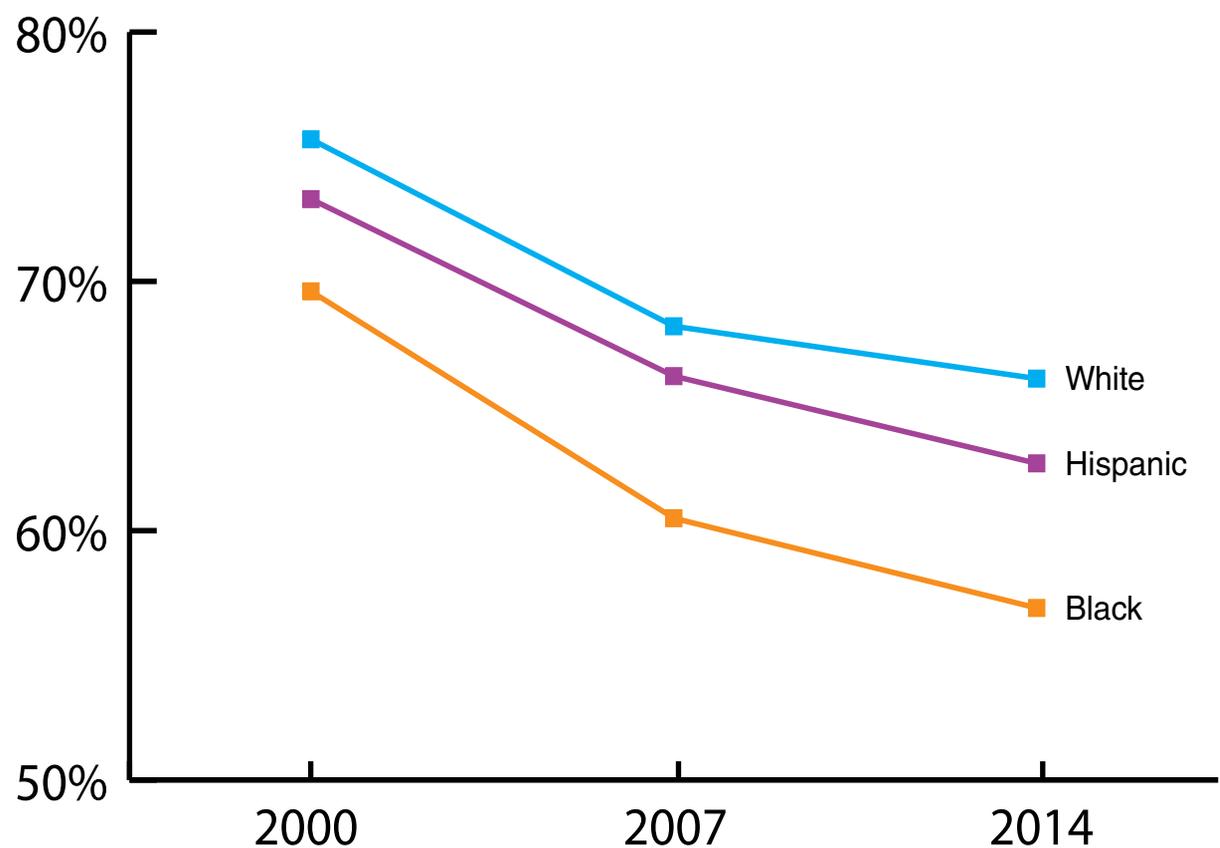
of 20 percent or higher," Kneebone found. "For poor black residents in those communities, the figure was 53 percent."

Federal data gathered by the Center for Immigration Studies show that since the year 2000 the employment rate of white working-age Americans has fallen from 75.7 percent to 69.6 percent, and from 68.2 percent to

the jobless in them are not directly competing with the more than 10 million foreign citizens given work permits each decade.

But if the government were to stop supplying so much foreign labor, would America's corporations change their recruiting patterns and look for workers in the thousands of communities like Ferguson? Might they even

EMPLOYMENT FALLING FOR ALL, BUT WORST FOR BLACKS



SOURCES: U.S. Current Population Survey of working-age Americans (16-65) and Center for Immigration Studies

A guide to Obama's amnesty gimmicks

By Ernest Istook

What do President Obama's amnesty plan and Obamacare have in common? Both were orchestrated with massive government-funded propaganda.

Barack Obama is repeating the process used by him and by MIT professor Jonathan Gruber to enact Obamacare, based on manipulation, deception and the supposed stupidity of American voters, who were told they could keep their plan and keep their doctor.

Now Mr. Obama is using a Gruber-esque trick: A legal memo that relies on a gimmick to declare his amnesty plan is lawful.

Americans should remember the adage, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

The plan trotted out by the president on Thursday night doesn't change the gimmicks used for years to promote "comprehensive immigration reform":

Securing the border first. (Disregard the massive influx this year.)

Prioritizing criminals. (Ignore the 36,000 released by immigration officials last year, including almost 200 convicted killers. Pay no attention, either, to the 167,000 criminals still awaiting deportation.)

Requiring background checks. (They are mostly perfunctory, backlogged and with a proven record of overlooking offenders.)

Paying back taxes. (It actually applies only to those previously sent an audit bill from the Internal Revenue Service. Nobody else has to catch up.)

Paying fines and fees. (The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program says fees cannot be "waived," but then grants "exemptions" from fees instead.)

Learning English. (In practice, this is filled with loopholes.)

Going to the back of the line. (Actually, there is no line involved.)

The propaganda begins with Mr. Obama's false claims of record deportation levels, which are based on changing the classic definitions. Someone caught at the border and turned away is now counted as a deportation, rather than measuring those caught within our heartland and sent home. Actual deportations are way down.

The height of his newest propaganda is the president's claim that his actions do not constitute amnesty, but that anything except his policy amounts to a de facto amnesty: "I know some of the critics of this action call it amnesty. Well, it's not. Amnesty is the immigration system we have today."

The biggest and most crucial amnesty

gimmick is a brand-new memo from Attorney General Eric Holder Jr.'s Department of Justice, proclaiming the plan to be legal — but only because of one creatively added loophole. The memo deserves an Olympic gold medal for legal gymnastics. It confirms the governing law is this: "The Executive cannot, under the guise of exercising enforcement discretion, attempt to effectively rewrite the laws to match its policy preferences."

The memo, from the Office of Legal Counsel, also adds that a president cannot adopt "a general policy that is so extreme as to amount to an abdication of its statutory responsibilities."

What could be more extreme than exempting millions of people automatically instead of applying prosecutorial discretion or deferred action on a case-by-case basis? Our Constitution requires that each president must "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." Rather than obeying that clause, Mr. Obama wanted an escape clause and he is trying to create one.

The Department of Justice memo says the entire legality of his actions hinges on a special loophole that the president obviously added for this purpose. The loophole is that, despite the new deportation priorities, immigration field office directors can nevertheless propose "the removal of even non-priority aliens if, in their judgment ... removing such an

alien would serve an important federal interest."

According to the memo, this loophole saves the entire plan. It treats the possibility of occasional disagreements with the president's policy as the functional equivalent of case-by-case decisions of whether to grant amnesty. However, field office directors cannot review these cases; under the new system those cases instead will bypass them. This is like expecting immigration officers to find a needle in a haystack that's moving full-speed on a roaring freight train. These also are the very officials whose deportation judgments have routinely been reversed by Mr. Obama's appointees.

This creates an upside-down system. The burden is placed on bureaucrats to defy the president and show some special reason to deport, instead of requiring an admitted illegal alien to prove why they should not be deported.

Mr. Obama rests his entire legal theory on this flimsy bit of bureaucratic pretense. It demonstrates just how many gimmicks and how much flim-flam are at the root of the president's strategy. With the help of Mr. Holder, Mr. Obama's amnesty plan is out-Gruber-ing Mr. Gruber himself.

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Obama's amnesty order guarantees hell on the border continues

By Wesley Pruden
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Barack Obama put the cat among the pigeons with his amnesty action, but he may be surprised by how big that cat could get, and with it a big cat's appetite for more than pigeons.

His "executive orders" demanding a stop to deportations is no doubt good news for millions of illegal immigrants — 5 million at last count — he wants to preserve and protect for Democrats looking to replenish a depleted constituency. But it's not such good news for anyone who appreciates law and order on the border. Amnesties can be good, but they must be written carefully lest they invite more of the same misery that led to amnesty. The president's invitation to the millions south of the border — "Come on in, I'll find a way to make you legal later" — guarantees that hell on the border will continue, and probably get worse. The hell on the Potomac will get a lot worse.

The president and his lawyers are clever. By not actually issuing an executive order called an executive order — he can call it a "memo" to his prosecutors but it's still an order from the executive — he will make it more difficult for the Republicans to find a way to overturn it.

Just the anticipation of the president's big speech set off cries and celebrations. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, having abandoned her dream of ascending once more to speaker of the House, and who knows no more of the nation's history than the president apparently does, got lost Thursday afternoon in a history book. She mistook Barack Obama for Abraham Lincoln, and his immigration amnesty for the Emancipation Proclamation. "Does the public know that the Emancipation Proclamation was an executive order?" she asked. (Does the public know that the Emancipation Proclamation preserved slavery in the four slave states still in the Union, and freed no slaves in the departed Confederate states? The public could look it up.) The only similarities in Mr. Lincoln's proclamation and Mr. Obama's order is that neither was intended to resolve anything, but to set loose that cat among the pigeons. The Civil War circa 1861-1865 ground bloodily on, and the immigration system circa 2014 is still broken and bleeding, and probably farther from resolution than ever.

Civil war is the metaphor of the day. Phyllis Schlafly, who almost single-handedly defeated the feminist crusade for an equal-rights amendment, now calls Mr. Obama's executive order "a modern-day

Fort Sumter."

Pat Buchanan, the columnist and one-time presidential candidate, hints not of civil war but of revolution. "Our rogue president has crossed a historic line," he says, "and so has the republic. Future presidents will cite the 'Obama precedent' when they declare they will henceforth not enforce this or that law, because of a prior commitment to some noisy constituency. We have just taken a monumental step away from republicanism toward Caesarism. For this is rule by diktat, the rejection of which sparked the American Revolution."

Mr. Obama's "prior commitment to some noisy constituency" has already set off noisy celebrations. Watch parties of the noisy constituency were held in Hispanic communities across the land, with many people who know better, or should, gloating that Mr. Obama's signature puts an end to the argument over amnesty. Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois said he had two words for the dissenters: "Stop whining."

"Mitch McConnell," he told NBC News, "they should stop whining, and start legislating, and start saying what they're going to do. They have an incredible victory in the Senate, an incredible new majority in the House of Representatives. Use it to do something constructive."

Geraldo Rivera, the former Jerry Rivers, who identifies himself as senior correspondent of Fox News, celebrated with screeds against the very idea of securing the border, lest it stem the flood of more illegals. "The Grand Old Party," he says, "has zero intention to do anything on immigration except build higher fences and hire more border guards ... my only beef is that he is late, but better late than never."

The president will dispatch Cabinet officers and other high administration officials to strike out across the country to promote his executive orders alias memorandum. If these are open meetings, and not carefully plotted closed meetings, they'll get an earful.

Mr. Obama invites that earful. The construction of his orders — "memos," as he insists — hints that he expects the Republicans to eventually deploy the "nuclear option," and having had so much to say about his "racist" enemies, invites a showdown that he can cast as racist. The impeachment talk has so far been the talk of Democrats, not Republicans. But it's not difficult to see that he is setting up the ultimate shootout: "You want to impeach a black president? Bring it on."

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Wesley Pruden is editor emeritus of The Washington Times.

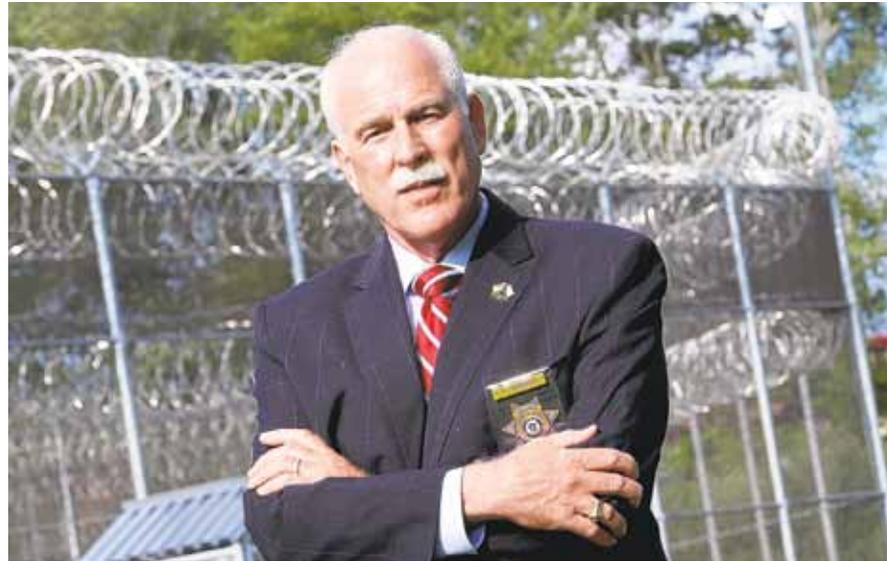
A sheriff's viewpoint on achieving true immigration reform

By Thomas M. Hodgson

Having worked on immigration reform for the past 17 years, and built and operated an immigration detention facility, I am positioned to offer a unique perspective of how I believe we can move forward to develop a legitimate Comprehensive Immigration Reform plan.

At the outset, Congress and the president of the United States must agree that neither partisan politics nor political expediency will be a motivation for their actions on this issue. Further, they must recognize that in spite of lost time and the eagerness to satisfy citizens and the special interests groups, they must take the time necessary to deliberate and thoroughly review options before deciding what is a fair and equitable outcome. Because the issues relating to immigration are complex, it is important that everyone impacted by the new policies understand that to accomplish legitimate comprehensive reform it must be done in phases and may take several years to complete.

Congress should establish a commission of stakeholders, including law enforcement and business owners, to offer recommendations for change. Once an administrative framework is in



place, review and implementation should begin.

The first, and most important, task is to secure our borders, seaports, and other points of entry. Experts such as our Israeli counterparts and others should be consulted about best practices relating to staffing strategies, screening techniques, and cutting-edge technologies that will be useful in the development of an effective security plan.

Efforts should be made to enhance the enforcement of our Secure Communities program so that we can strengthen our

law enforcement collaboration and double down on apprehending and removing criminal illegal aliens from our neighborhoods. Procedures must be established, and monitored for compliance, to require proof of legal status before an individual is given things such as Social Security cards, and driver's licenses, contractors' licenses, and social service benefits.

Lastly, any discussion and consideration of a pathway to citizenship for those illegally in our country should include factors such as employment, criminal history, monetary fines to be

automatically withdrawn, taxes, and military service. Further, anyone qualifying for citizenship under the established criteria that is here illegally should not be granted citizenship before those who have legally entered the citizenship process and currently have an application on file.

The urgency of creating a Comprehensive Immigration Reform plan is felt by our citizens who have been asked to pay for the costs associated with healthcare, education, housing, welfare benefits, and incarceration for illegal immigrants. The fundamental responsibility of government is to preserve the well-being of our citizens and provide a reasonable and fair process for those who wish to become citizens.

Although government has failed in its most basic responsibility to its citizens, as it relates to immigration reform, we are poised to right the wrong and we must act without further delay.

We must not show willful disregard for our responsibilities as Americans. It is time to embrace our challenge and develop and implement legitimate Comprehensive Immigration Reform in the interests of our security and the preservation of our democracy.

.....
Thomas M. Hodgson in the Sheriff of Bristol County, Massachusetts.

Rallying the Tea Party against unlawful amnesty

By Judson Phillips

It is time to go to the streets again. In February 2009, in response to Barack Obama's massive and fraudulent spending, real Americans took to the streets. Rick Santelli made his famous rant on CNBC and eight days later, the Tea Party movement was born.

Now it is time to do it again. Michele Bachmann has called for a rally in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 3. Good idea. Wrong venue.

When the Tea Party sprang up in 2009, we had local rallies. On Wednesday, Dec. 3, real Americans need to stand up to the lawlessness of the Obama Regime with local rallies.

For America, this is the make or break movement.

As soon as Mr. Obama made his dictatorial announcement, a new wave started. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) expects 100,000 new illegal aliens to cross the border. There is a principle Mr. Obama knows too well. If you give them free stuff, they will come.

Part of the Obama dictatorial order on amnesty allegedly requires illegal aliens to get into our tax system. The lie that is being sold to America is that they will "pay taxes."

No, they will file returns.

The income of most illegal alien families is so low they will receive something called the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If a family of four has an income of under \$20,000, they get a payment from the government of \$14,590.

In other words, a welfare payment from the real American taxpayer. They will receive Obamacare and every other form of welfare we have.

As Mr. Santelli said years ago, "He is encouraging bad behavior." No, it is far worse. He is engaged in a strategy that will deliberately break the American economy.

Real Americans have two choices. We can sit back and watch the nation collapse or we can make a stand.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, real Americans need to make a stand. Not in Washington, D.C., but in hometowns through

out America. Like we did in 2009, we need to go downtown in America's hometowns. In 2009, we put millions of Americans on the street to protest the first illegal acts of the Obama Regime.

We must do that again.

Organizing rallies is not that hard and today we have Tea Party groups in existence that we did not have in 2009. Instead of Washington, we need to have these rallies in our hometowns and invite our senators and congressmen but more importantly state legislators.

The Republicans in Washington must be made to understand that they have to act to stop Mr. Obama and if they do not, they will find themselves being challenged in 2016. Real Americans must insist on real action. Some Republicans in Washington think that symbolic acts, such as "censuring" Mr. Obama will do something.

That is not real action.

The great conservative activist Morton Blackwell is famous for saying, "When they feel the heat, they will see the light."

The first Tea Party rallies in 2009 came as a surprise to the Obama Regime. The Tea Party movement slowed the regime down and blunted some of its efforts. The Tea Party movement was such a threat that the Regime used every resource in its power to attack some of the real Americans who made up the movement.

It is time.

If we do not speak now, we will condemn our children and grandchildren to that future Ronald Reagan warned us about, where we would tell them stories about growing up in America when people were free.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, real Americans who make up this country must speak. If we do not speak now, soon there will be no America for us to speak for.

.....
Judson Phillips is an accomplished lawyer in Tennessee and founder of the Tea Party Nation.

Obamacare offers firms \$3,000 incentive to hire illegals over native-born workers

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Under the president's new amnesty, businesses will have a \$3,000-per-employee incentive to hire illegal immigrants over native-born workers because of a quirk of Obamacare.

President Obama's temporary amnesty, which lasts three years, declares up to 5 million illegal immigrants to be lawfully in the country and eligible for work permits, but it still deems them ineligible for public benefits such as buying insurance on Obamacare's health exchanges.

Under the Affordable Care Act, that means businesses who hire them won't have to pay a penalty for not providing them health coverage — making them \$3,000 more attractive than a similar native-born worker, whom the business by law would have to cover.

The loophole was confirmed by congressional aides and drew condemnation from those who said it put illegal immigrants ahead of Americans in the job market.

"If it is true that the president's actions give employers a \$3,000 incentive to hire those who came here illegally, he has added insult to injury," said Rep. Lamar Smith, Texas Republican. "The president's actions would have just moved those who came here illegally to the front of the line, ahead of unemployed and underemployed Americans."

A Department of Homeland Security official confirmed that the newly legalized immigrants won't have access to Obamacare, which opens up the loophole for employers looking to avoid the penalty.

The Health and Human Services Department, which oversees Obamacare, referred questions to the White House, which didn't reply to a request for comment.

But Mr. Obama, traveling in Chicago Tuesday to defend his immigration plans, said his moves would boost the economy and vowed they wouldn't hurt American workers' wages.

"Immigrants are good for the economy. We keep on hearing that they're bad, but a report by my Council of Economic Advisers put out last week shows how the actions we're taking will grow our economy for everybody," he said.

This isn't the first time the Obamacare loophole has popped up on immigration. The overhaul bill that passed the Senate on a bipartisan vote last year created the same situation, granting illegal immigrants a long probationary period where they could legally work

but weren't eligible for public benefits such as Obamacare.

At the time, Arizona Sen. John McCain, one of the bill's GOP authors, acknowledged the problem and vowed to change it before it became law. Despite passing the Senate, the bill has stalled, with Democratic leaders refusing to send it to the House for further action.

Brian Rogers, a spokesman for Mr. McCain, said Tuesday the solution to the loophole is to get rid of Obamacare's employer mandate, "which would elimi-

Under Obamacare, businesses with 50 or more employees are supposed to provide insurance coverage to their full-time workers. If they refuse, they are assessed a penalty for every employee who receives subsidies to sign up for coverage on the health exchanges. But because the newly legalized illegal immigrants covered by Mr. Obama's order can't sign up for the exchanges or receive subsidies, employers aren't penalized for hiring them.

Employers take notice

overall support for illegal immigrants in America is at an all-time low in the Quinnipiac survey, with 35 percent now saying they should all be pushed out of the country — up from 26 percent just a year ago.

Mr. Obama created the Obamacare loophole incentive in a 2012 Homeland Security decision.

Until August of that year, those granted "deferred action" — the power Mr. Obama also used in his new temporary amnesty — were eligible for

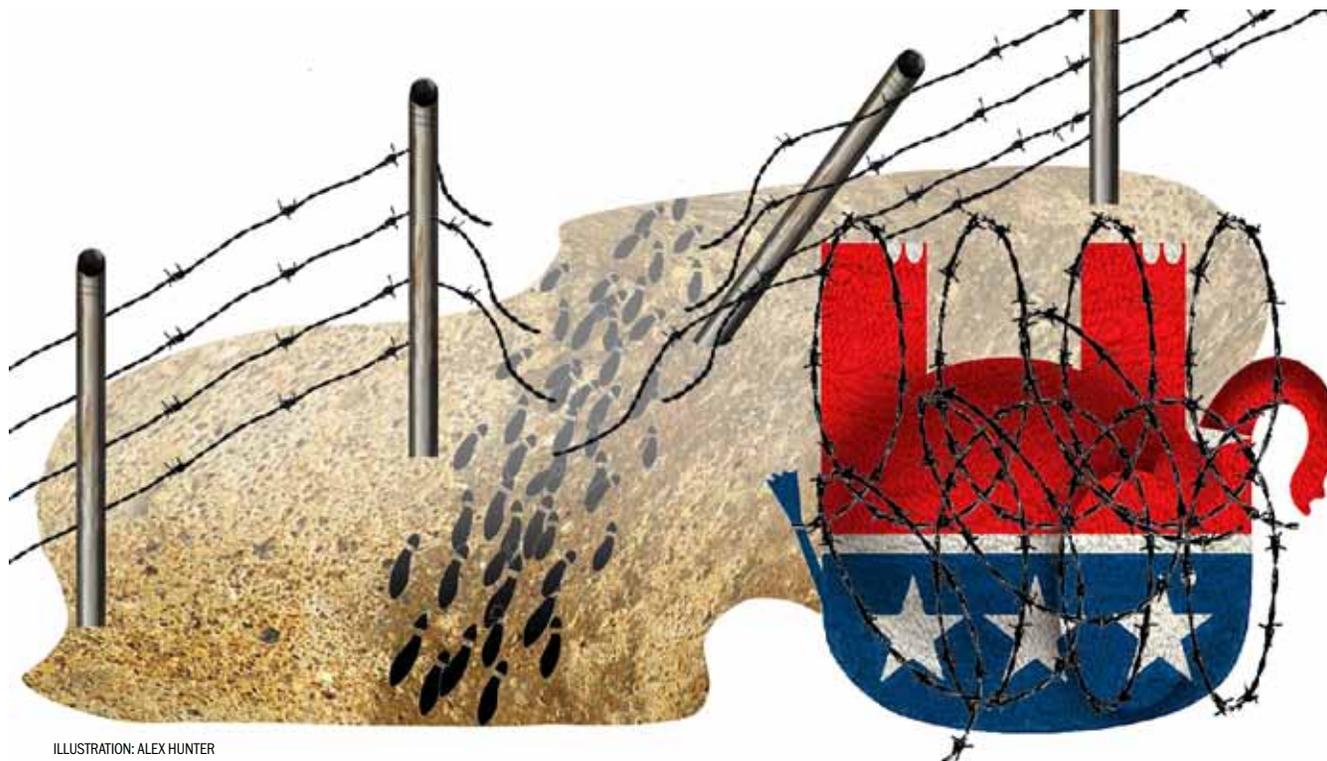


ILLUSTRATION: ALEX HUNTER

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nate the incentive to hire people who are ineligible for Obamacare subsidies." Mr. Rogers said the Republican majority that takes control of Congress next year should vote on that proposal.

Some employers have already taken notice, and Dennis Michael Lynch, a documentary filmmaker, raised the issue on political strategist Dick Morris's radio show in Philadelphia over the weekend.

"The dimensions of this problem are enormous. One wonders if any of Obama's crew spotted it during the run-up to his executive order. It is hard to imagine former President Clinton failing to notice such a conflict between his two major programs," Mr. Morris said in an op-ed Tuesday in *The Hill*, a Capitol Hill newspaper.

The Obama administration has delayed the employer mandate penalty for some businesses, but it is slated to take full effect in a year.

The public is split on Mr. Obama's latest immigration move. A new Quinnipiac University Poll released Tuesday showed slightly more people opposed the president taking unilateral action than supported him.

Just as striking, however, is that

public benefits, including Obamacare. But just two months earlier, Mr. Obama had announced a massive expansion of deferred action for hundreds of thousands of "dreamers," or young illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, and in order to prevent them from getting public benefits, Homeland Security officials issued a new policy giving the dreamers a new category of legal status that left them outside of Obamacare.

Immigrant rights groups protested the move at the time, arguing it left the newly legal dreamers without coverage. The National Immigration Law Center said excluding dreamers from Obamacare amounted to discrimination against tax-paying immigrants who are following the rules, and set up a new second-class status for some immigrants.

The NILC didn't respond to a request for comment on Mr. Obama's latest move.

This story was first published in The Washington Times on Nov. 25, 2014.

A Nation of Immigrants Built on Common Sense

By Mike Gonzalez

“The immigrants watched helplessly as the angry crowd spit out epithets at them, little children clinging to their mothers’ skirts for safety. It had been a long, arduous journey, and at the other end, they met nothing but rejection and hatred.”

Anyone reading the above could be forgiven for thinking that this is a tale either from our Texas border or from a southern California town where federal authorities were bussing Central American kids who had crossed the border illegally.

Actually, it’s my own fictionalized account of true events that took place in Boston, in 1729, as a mob blocked immigrants on ships from Londonderry and Belfast from coming ashore. The tale, however, has much to say about today’s immigration battles.

These immigrants were Scots-Irish. They shared the same Northern European pinkish hue as the protesters. Also like most Massachusetts natives, the new arrivals were Protestants. Indeed, they were Presbyterians, cut from the same Calvinist cloth as the Congregationalists of New England.

Still, the descendants of our Pilgrim Fathers derided them as “those con-founded Irish.”

Other immigrants were treated even worse. The Catholic Irish weren’t

allowed to settle at all in the early colonies. Germans, too, were feared. Ben Franklin worried that they “will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of our Anglifying them.”

Somehow, they all ended up succeeding through their own determination and perseverance and without the federal government apportioning their representation in the labor market, government contract, universities or society in general.

Throughout our current divisive immigration debate, liberals keep pounding the table and lecturing the rest that “we’re a nation of immigrants,” as if conservatives had somehow missed this key part of the nation’s tradition. It’s actually liberals who can’t see the implications of what being a nation of immigrants means.

As Linda Chavez wrote long ago, the history of American ethnic groups, “is one of overcoming disadvantage, of competing with those who were already here and proving themselves as competent as any who came before.”

But we no longer do it this way. In its infinite wisdom, the federal bureaucracy decided in the 1970s that it had to intervene in the process.

Through laws and administrative actions, Washington’s different departments and agencies lumped different immigrants from Latin America under the banner of “Hispanic” — a term that

hadn’t been used in this fashion in Latin America or Spain. The bureaucracy did the same to people as varied as Japanese, Filipinos and Cambodians, whom it labeled “Asians.” In all, four new “minority” groups were created.

The explicit intention, according to Public Law 94-311 in 1976, was to “implement an affirmative action program ... for the employment of personnel of Spanish origin.” The reason, according to the law, was because they had suffered “from racial, social, economic and political discrimination.”

But so had everyone else, and this country had excelled at immigration for centuries without this kind of government support. It managed somehow to produce such liberty and prosperity that it became a magnet for people round the world. As Nathan Glazer put it in 1988:

“We had seen many groups become part of the United States through immigration, and we had seen each in turn overcoming some degree of discrimination to become integrated into American society. This process did not seem to need the active involvement of government, determining the proper degree of participation of each group in employment and education.”

The new line drawn between three centuries of collective experience and the present has not helped the immigrants themselves. Officially telling these new immigrants that the country is so

racist and bigoted that their success depends on government help is but the first step in conditioning new immigrants to rely on the help of a supposedly benevolent government.

And as we know from research, only earned success—of the type that Chavez and Glazer describe—gives you inward satisfaction.

So, small wonder that conservatives are concerned that President Obama used his executive powers legalize millions of illegal immigrants. It doesn’t take 20/20 clairvoyance to figure out that the President and his supporters see Hispanics as agents of change that will help him “fundamentally transform” the country into one that accepts more government intervention.

Conservatives need a positive plan to turn Hispanics into agents for conserving America’s traditional values, but that will take time.

Immigration is tough in the best of times. Quotas, set asides and other forms of apportioning participation in society mess with the golden formula, and in fact make continuation of our tradition of immigration probably impracticable.

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Mike Gonzalez is a Senior Fellow at The Heritage Foundation and the author of the new book “A Race for the Future: How Conservatives Can Break the Liberal Monopoly on Hispanic Americans” which was published Sept.2.

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Illegals get a pay raise while American workers' checks get squeezed

By **STEPHEN DINAN**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Illegal immigrants stand to make out nicely, seeing a big jump in their wages under President Obama's policy granting millions of them temporary amnesty and the chance to work legally, but analysts say American workers in some jobs are likely to feel a pinch from new competitors.

While most of the illegal immigrants to whom Mr. Obama granted tentative legal status were already under little fear of deportation, they were usually working in the shadows, either off-the-books or using a bogus Social Security number that trapped them in low-skilled jobs and left them vulnerable to abuse by unscrupulous employers.

But Mr. Obama said millions of them will now be granted legal work permits along with their official stays of deportation, giving them a chance to seek better-paying jobs, demand a minimum wage and report workplace safety violations without fear of retribution.

Those new protections could produce an average wage jump of 12 percent, according to a Congressional Budget Office estimate attached to last year's Senate immigration bill.

Native-born workers, however, will see a more mixed picture — and those in some low-skilled jobs, particularly ones that require a background check, such as drivers, school janitors or hired security guards, are likely to face new competition, said Steven A. Camarota, research director at the Center for Immigration Studies.

Mr. Camarota said illegal immigrants have probably been unable to win jobs that require more than a Social Security number because their legal status could be discovered during a more in-depth background check. But Mr. Obama's new policy gives them legal work authority, clearing the way for them to apply for those posts.

For Mr. Camarota, whose group wants to see a crackdown on immigration, the effect on American workers in those fields could be significant.

"We face an employment crisis for the less-educated citizen population in this country, and the president is about to issue 5 million work permits for these folks to compete directly with those folks," Mr. Camarota said.

The newly legal workers are unlikely to affect most of the labor market, chiefly because of the demographics of the illegal immigrant population. They are low-skilled and less educated — Mr. Camarota says they have an average of just 10 or 11 years of schooling, or less than a high school diploma — which means they will be competing with similarly situated Americans.

But Mr. Obama was also reportedly



ILLUSTRATION: ALEX HUNTER

planning to increase the number of visas available to foreigners with science, math or engineering skills, which would create competition in those fields as well. Technology companies have pleaded for the extra workers, saying there's a shortage in the U.S., but associations representing tech workers say that's untrue and accuse the companies of trying to import foreign workers to undercut U.S. wages.

Jared Bernstein, former chief economic adviser to Mr. Obama and now senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, said Mr. Obama's plan doesn't fit into the usual supply-and-demand calculations of available workers and open jobs because the immigrants are already here. That means there's less danger of a job shock.

The chief effect, he said, will be better wages and conditions for the newly legal workers who are able to demand the going wage without fear of being threatened with exposure. Mr. Bernstein said that's also good for native workers in those fields, because employers won't be able to undercut them by hiring unauthorized workers.

"The most important dynamic here will be one that's beneficial to these newly

legalized workers themselves [and] also to the people who compete with them, because it's much harder to compete with someone who can be paid much less than they're worth," he said.

Mr. Bernstein said while there may be some competition for jobs in some fields, the numbers involved in the president's announcement aren't big enough to create a major disruption for native workers.

He warned of a number of uncertainties, including questions about how many of those eligible for the new program will actually take advantage of it. Given that the program is temporary, he said some immigrants may be reluctant to identify themselves to federal authorities, fearing the program would be reversed by a future president.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers early Friday released a memo arguing U.S. workers won't feel a pinch, pointing to studies of the 1980 Mariel boatlift that added 7 percent to the labor force in Miami with no ill effects on native workers.

The council even predicted a rise in wages of \$40 a year for native-born workers, thanks to less downward wage pressure

after the immigrants are legalized.

Adding more high-skilled workers, meanwhile, will mean an average wage increase of \$130, the council said.

The Congressional Budget Office, in evaluating last year's Senate immigration bill, reported that illegal immigrants who gained legal status under that legislation would have seen an average 12 percent wage increase because of their new legal status.

That CBO analysis said the Senate bill would slightly push down current legal workers' wages because of competition, but said that was from the influx of new immigrants projected under that bill. Mr. Obama's executive order doesn't allow for a massive rise in legal immigration.

Daniel Costa, director of immigration law at the Economic Policy Institute, a union-backed think tank, said in a blog post on EPI's website Thursday that native workers will in fact likely see a boost.

"When the immigrants' wages are unfairly held down, so are the wages of U.S. workers competing for the same jobs and hours," Mr. Costa wrote.

This story was first published in The Washington Times on Nov. 20, 2014.

LAW OF SUPPLY & DEMAND

ONE LAW THE PRESIDENT CAN'T SUSPEND



The Obama amnesty promises to swell the supply of work permits for foreign citizens -- the last thing struggling Americans need.

Americans are suffering from a giant surplus of workers chasing too few jobs. Real wages are stagnant or declining in many occupations. Income disparity widens. Lower and lower percentages of Americans are in the workforce at all.

Yet, **if Congress doesn't stop him**, Pres. Obama says he will offer millions more work permits to illegal migrants so they can compete directly with Americans for nearly every job in construction, manufacturing, truck-driving, hospitality and other service occupations, with many able to take professional jobs, as well.