

BBBwinsAugust Roundtables for Reform and the Evangelical Immigration Table Radio Ads News Clips Aug. 1, 2013 – Sept. 12, 2013

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Carter talks to media about immigration reform

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Posted: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 4:30 am
 Chris McGuinness | Herald staff writer | 7 comments

Posted on August 20, 2013
 by Chris McGuinness



immigration reform.

Carter spoke to members of the media at the Central Texas Council of Governments building in Belton after a meeting with representatives from area businesses and leaders of local evangelical churches. Both groups, Carter said, had questions about legislative efforts to reform the country's immigration system.

"We have some problems to work out in this area," said Carter, who serves as the chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. "We've been talking about possible solutions."

Carter's appearance in Belton comes after members of the U.S. Senate passed an immigration reform bill in July.

Speaking Wednesday, Carter said he believed the Senate bill would not pass in the House, and mentioned his work with a bipartisan group of members to create their own immigration reform legislation.

Rusty Sullivan | FSE News Service
 Rep. John Carter

REUTERS EDITION: U.S.

Insight: Quietly, businesses help reshape U.S. immigration debate

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Evangelicals air pro-immigration ads targeting lawmakers in 14 states, including Alabama

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Demonstrators march along Deader Avenue in December 2011 during a pro-immigration rally. A \$400,000 national radio ad campaign in 14 states is urging congressmen to support national immigration reform. / Lloyd Nelson/Alabama.com file



September 12, 2013

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Ali Noorani, National Immigration Forum Action Fund

RE: #BBBWinsAugust Impact Report

In December of 2012 the National Immigration Forum Action Fund launched Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform, a network of thousands of local conservative faith, law enforcement and business leaders.

Over the course of the August recess, our goal was to provide conservative support for Republican members of Congress by attending Town Halls, convening Roundtables for Reform and engaging local media.

The verdict is in: Bibles, Badges and Business won the August recess.

Working with a wide range of faith, law enforcement and business allies, over the course of the 5-week recess, the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network:

- Convened over **40 Roundtables for Reform** in key congressional districts.
- Held **5 statewide telephonic press conferences** in critical states.
- Organized **148 local faith, business and law enforcement leaders** to headline the 40 events.
- Recruited conservative leaders to **attend over 65 Town Halls**.
- Generated **371 news stories**, 80% of which were local headlines.
- Earned over **1,000 visits** to our dedicated recess website, www.BBBwinsAugust.com.
- Generated over **1,000 tweets** using the dedicated hashtag #BBBWinsAugust
- Reached over **1,150,000 people** via Twitter and Facebook

Roundtables for Reform

Over the course of the August recess, the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network held **40 Roundtables for Reform** in key congressional districts across the Southeast, South, Midwest and West. These roundtables served as press events where local conservative faith, law enforcement and business leaders offered their support for commonsense immigration reform. Locations included:

Belton, TX	Greeley, CO	Duncan, SC	Brigham City, UT	Bloomington, MN
Centennial, CO	Pueblo, CO	Turlock, CA	Geneva, IL	Orange Park, FL
Glendale, AZ	Dayton, OH	Wausau, WI	Omaha, NE	Lafayette, IN
Las Vegas, NV	Rome, GA	Elkhart, IN	Ft. Wayne, IN	Bloomington, IL
Raleigh, NC	Champaign, IL	Nashville, TN	Columbus, OH	Raleigh, NC

Local Leaders Speak Out

The Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network brought together an unprecedented coalition of local moderate and conservative leaders in the faith, business and law enforcement communities to push for immigration reform throughout the August recess. The full list of the **148 local influencers** that participated in our 40 Roundtables for Reform is pasted below.

In the Media

The #BBBwinsAugust campaign, coupled with the Evangelical Immigration Table, generated **371 news clips** in local and national outlets. Our **Top Seven** clips are pasted below. Over **80%** of the stories ran in targeted local news outlets as follows.

AZ – 7	IL – 11	NC – 24	SC – 18	WI – 25
CO – 10	IN – 25	NV – 12	TN – 13	National – 71
GA – 5	MN – 4	OH – 9	TX – 41	Other States –96

Online

A large component of the #BBBwinsAugust campaign was generating buzz on social media channels and online around the concerted Bibles, Badges and Business push for immigration reform. To that end, a campaign website, www.bbbwinsaugust.com, was launched to chronicle the Roundtables for Reform. Similarly, a dedicated hashtag, #BBBwinsAugust, was used at every single Roundtable to project the BBB message online.

#BBBwinsAugust

- **44 posts to www.bbbwinsaugust.com leading to over 1,000 visits**
- **Live-tweeting** from every single Roundtable for Reform
- **Over 1,000 tweets** generated
- Notable people using #BBBwinsAugust: **Steve Case, Rep. Joe Heck and Rep. Todd Rokita.**
- Total reach: **1,150,000 Twitter users.**

ROUNDTABLE for REFORM PARTICIPANTS

(Organized by Constituency)

BIBLES

- **Jason Adkins**, Executive Director, Minnesota Catholic Conference
- **Alex Alvarado**, Iglesia Cristo la Roca, New Castle, Colo.
- **Rudy Argueta**, Centro Cristiano Getsemani, El Jebel, Colo.
- **Jerry Baker**, Intercultural Specialist and State Missionary, Georgia Baptist Convention
- **Gary Cake**, Open Bible Fellowship, De Beque, Colo.
- **Mike Collison**, Associate Pastor, Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church, Wisc.
- **Jeff Cook**, Associate Professor of Biblical Education and Urban Studies, Cedarville University; Member, Christian Community Development Association, Cedarville, Ohio
- **James Cunningham**, Executive Director, Nebraska Catholic Conference
- **Rev. Lloyd (Sam) Cunningham**, Catholic Priest/Spiritual Director, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Centro Arnoldo, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- **Ian Danley**, Program Director at Neighborhood Ministries. Phoenix, Ariz.
- **Fred Everett**, Director of the Office of Family Life, Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind.
- **John Faison**, CEO, Centro Internacional de Raleigh, N.C.
- **Dr. Jim Goodroe**, Director of Missions at the Spartanburg County Baptist Network, S.C.
- **Stuart Hamblen**, Chief of Police, Angola Police Department, Ind.
- **Raudel Hernandez**, Pastor, Summit en Español
- **John Huebscher**, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference
- **Troy Jackson**, Director, Ohio Prophetic Voices
- **Rev. Joe Johns**, Director of Missional Living, Fellowship Missionary Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- **Pastor Jose Jones**, Hispanic Ministry Program Coordinator, College Hill Community Church, Dayton, Ohio
- **Scott J. Jones**, Bishop of the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church
- **Gary Kinnaman**, Senior Pastor at Word of Grace Church in Mesa, Ariz.
- **Mike Langer**, Pastor, Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church, Ill.
- **Father Anthony Lee**, Reverend Father, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Bloomington, Ill.
- **Father Joe Mattern**, St. Mary's Parish, Omro, Wisc.
- **Mike McClenahan**, Pastor, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, Solana Beach, Calif.
- **Father Michael McKinney**, All Saints Parish, Logansport, Ind.
- **Rev. Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab**, Director of Ministry Programs, the Lutheran Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- **Tim Moore**, Senior Pastor, Walk Worthy Baptist Church, Texas
- **Frank Mulcahy**, Executive Director, Georgia Catholic Conference
- **Carl Nelson**, President, Transform Minnesota: The Evangelical Network
- **Dr. Suzii Paynter**, Executive Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- **Eddie Poole**, Lead Pastor, MJLife Church of Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
- **Pastor Drew Poppleton**, Heartland Community Church, Lafayette, Ind.
- **Janet Rasmussen**, Pastor, First Mennonite Church, Champaign-Urbana, Ill.

- **Dave Scharfenberger**, Justice for Immigrants Coordinator, Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- **Dr. Rich Schenck**, Director of Urban Initiative and Leadership Team Member for Community Based Ministries at Indiana Central District of the Wesleyan Church; Pastor, Lakeview Wesleyan Church, Marion, Ind.
- **Cathy Shanklin**, Executive Director of the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations, Dayton, Ohio
- **Michael Sheedy**, Director of Public Policy, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops
- **Rosemary & Carlos Sluder**, El Buen Pastor, Delta, Colo.
- **Sister Maria Stacy**, Director of the Dayton Catholic Hispanic Ministry and Committee Member for Welcome Dayton: Immigrant Friendly City, Dayton, Ohio
- **Tony Stieritz**, Director, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Social Action Office
- **David Tarkington**, Lead Pastor, First Baptist Church Orange Park, Fla.
- **Glenn Tebbe**, Executive Director of the Indiana Catholic Conference
- **Jose Vega**, Senior Pastor, Renacer Iglesia Bautista. Jacksonville, Fla.
- **Robin Vega**, Iglesia Cristo La Roca, New Castle, Colo.
- **Michelle Warren**, Christian Community Development Association, Colo.
- **Hans Weston**, Jubilee Family Church , Grand Junction, Colo.

BADGES

- **Sgt. Sara Balmes**, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Ill.
- **Richard Biehl**, Director and Chief of Police, Dayton Police Department, Dayton, Ohio
- **Secretary Michael Chertoff**, Former Secretary of Homeland Security, BPC Immigration Task Force Member
- **Mark Curran**, Sheriff, Lake County, Ill.
- **Jerry Demings**, Sheriff, Orange County, Florida
- **Jason Dombkowski**, Chief of Police, West Lafayette Police Department, Ind.
- **Hon. Alberto Gonzales**, former U.S. Attorney General
- **Jack Harris**, Retired Phoenix Police Chief
- **Charlie Norman**, Regional Director for Southwest Ohio, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- **Rudy Olivo**, Former Columbus Police Officer, Columbus, Ind.
- **Scott R. Parks**, Marathon County Sheriff , Wausau, Wisc.
- **State Senator Ronald Rabin (R-NC 12th District)**, Retired Colonel, U.S. Army
- **Dan Reynolds**, Police Chief of the City of Greer, S.C.
- **CJ Stephens**, Retired North Carolina State Highway Patrol Officer and Member of the State Employees Association of North Carolina
- **Chief Kevin E. Wilkinson**, Neenah Police Department, Wisc.

BUSINESS

- **Scott Allison**, CEO of Teamly, Las Vegas, Nev.
- **Linda Andrews**, Legislative Director, North Carolina Farm Bureau
- **John Augustine**, Arizona Nursery Association
- **Pat Bane**, Pork Producer, McLean County Farm Bureau, Ill.
- **Ken Barbic**, Western Growers Association

- **Dave Bender**, Executive Director, American Council of Engineering Companies; Chair, Logan County Republican Party; Co-Chair, Illinois Business Immigration Coalition
- **Mikel Berger**, President, Lafayettech, Lafayette, Ind.
- **Brewster Bevis**, Senior Vice President, Associated Industries of Florida
- **Bill Blazer**, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Business Development, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- **Wes Blumenshine**, Associate General Counsel, Caterpillar Inc.
- **Karen Bremer**, Executive Director of the Georgia Restaurant Association
- **David Z. Brown**, Managing Partner, Brown Immigration Law, LLC, Lincoln, Neb.
- **Jonathan Bushhouse**, Chief of Staff, Campbell University College Republicans, N.C.
- **Tariq Butt**, Deputy Medical Officer of ACCESS Community Health Network, Chicago, Ill.
- **Steve Case**, Chairman and CEO, Revolution; Co-Founder, America Online
- **Shelly Carlin**, Senior Vice President, Human Resources & Communications, Motorola Solutions, Chicago, Ill.
- **Chalmers Carr**, Executive Board Member of the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council, West Columbia, S.C.
- **Pedro J. Cevallos-Candau**, Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of Primera Engineers, Ltd., Chicago, Ill.
- **Dana Cope**, Executive Director, State Employees Association of North Carolina
- **Hearcel Craig**, Columbus City Council Member, Ohio
- **Andrew Crump**, CEO of Bluefields
- **Michael Dalby**, President and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Ohio
- **Chris Dallin**, Intermountain Healthcare, Riverton, Utah
- **Mr. Ralph Egües**, President of the National Hispanic Landscape Alliance
- **Sandy Emile**, Cache Chamber of Commerce, Utah
- **Dr. Suresh Garimella**, Chief Global Affairs Officer, Purdue University
- **Andrew Ginther**, President of the Columbus City Council, Ohio
- **Catherine Glover**, President, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Jerry Gonzalez**, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials
- **Ruben Guerra**, Chairman and CEO, Latin Business Association
- **Ujjwal Gupta**, CEO, Benchprep, Chicago, Ill.
- **Michael Hamilton**, Executive Editor of the Ohio Conservative Review
- **Kyle Hannon**, President and CEO, Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, Ind.
- **Amber Hanson**, Associate Director of Public Policy, Minnesota Farm Bureau
- **Dave Hardman**, Ogden Weber Chamber of Commerce, Utah
- **Brock Herzberg**, Capitol Focus LLC, Denver, Colo.
- **Glenn Hirakata**, Hirakata Farms. Rocky Ford, Colo.
- **Monica Holdaway**, Brigham City Area Chamber of Commerce, Utah
- **Terry Howerton**, CEO, TechNexus; Chair Emeritus, Illinois Tech Association
- **Tony Hu**, Founder of Tony Hu Food Gourmet, Chicago, Ill.
- **Levi Huffman**, Farmer, Owner, Huffman & Hawbaker Farms, LLC, Lafayette, Ind.
- **Randy Johnson**, Senior Vice President, Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

- **Dr. David Jones**, Professor of Criminal Justice, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- **Heather Kenyon**, President and CEO, Tampa Bay Technology Forum
- **Maria Klemack-McGraw**, Grove City Council Member, Ohio
- **AnnaMarie Knorr**, Government Affairs Manager at Western Growers
- **Mary Kraft**, Quail Ridge Dairy, Fort Morgan, Colo.
- **Charles Kuck**, Managing Partner, Kuck Immigration Partners LLC., Atlanta, Ga.
- **David Larson**, Immigration Attorney with Altick & Corwin Co., L.P.A., Dayton, Ohio
- **Doug Leman**, Executive Director of Indiana Dairy Producers
- **Bert Lemkes**, Co-owner, VanWingerden International, Inc.
- **State Representative David Lewis (R-NC 53rd District)**, North Carolina Farmer and Farm Equipment Dealer
- **Doug Loon**, Vice President of Regional Affairs and Advocacy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- **Ed Lump**, President and CEO of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association
- **Patrick Lunemann**, President, Minnesota Milk Producers Association
- **John Metzger**, Farmer, Ind.
- **Charlie Moore**, President and CEO, McLean County Chamber of Commerce, Ill.
- **Susan Moore**, La Luna Dairy, Wellington, Colo.
- **Kevin Morgan**, Executive Assistant to the President, Florida Farm Bureau
- **Darryl D. Morin**, National Vice President- Midwest of the League of United Latin American Citizens
- **Damon Morris**, Regional Director for Western Ohio, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- **Dan Mulhall**, Mulhall's Landscaping, Nursery and Garden Center, Omaha, Neb.
- **David C. Namkung**, Founder and Managing Partner, Clarity Partners, LLC, Chicago, Ill.
- **Ken Natorp**, CEO, W.A. Natorp Co., Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Bernie Navarro**, President, Latin Builders Association; President, Benworth Capital Partners, LLC, Miami, Fla.
- **Cathy O'Dell**, Government Affairs, Dunn Area Chamber of Commerce, N.C.
- **Tim O'Harrow**, Dairy Farmer, Wisc.
- **Jim Partington**, Executive Director, Nebraska Restaurant Association
- **Ryan Peebles**, President, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Mid Tennessee Chapter
- **Rayne Pegg**, Federal Policy Manager, California Farm Bureau Federation
- **Mark Peters**, Corporate Counsel, Caterpillar Inc.
- **Mark Peters**, Executive Director, University YMCA
- **David Petrocco Sr.**, Petrocco Farms, Brighton, Colo.
- **Steve Pringle**, Legislative Director, Texas Agriculture Bureau
- **Jesse Ruiz**, Corporate and Securities Partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, Chicago, Ill.
- **Joe Seaman**, President and CEO, Greater Lafayette Commerce, Ind.
- **Beneva Schulte**, Executive Director, inSPIRE STEM USA
- **Smita Shah**, President and CEO of SPAAN Tech Inc., Chicago, Ill.
- **Barry Sharp**, Owner and President, S&S Steel Services Inc.. Anderson, Ind.
- **Joe Sigg**, Government Relations Director at the Arizona Farm Bureau
- **Ryan Simons**, President, Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, N.C.
- **Jon Slutsky**, La Luna Dairy, Wellington, Colo.

- **Jim Smith**, Davis Chamber of Commerce, Utah
- **Tom Still**, President of the Wisconsin Tech Council
- **Erich Straub**, Partner at Straub Immigration LLC, Milwaukee, Wisc.
- **Ben Taylor**, Director, U.S. Chamber of Commerce- Great Lakes Region
- **Joe Trauger**, Vice President of Human Resources Policy, National Association of Manufacturers
- **Alex Torrenegra**, CEO of VoiceBunny, San Francisco, Calif.
- **Lacy Upchurch**, President, Tennessee Farm Bureau
- **Tim Wheelwright**, Durham, Jones & Pinegar Law, Salt Lake City, Utah
- **John White**, Vice President of Durham Chamber of Commerce, N.C.
- **Larry Wooten**, President, North Carolina Farm Bureau
- **Geoff Wurzel**, Executive Director, Texas, TechNet
- **Marilyn Zayas-Davis**, Immigration Attorney, Law Office of Marilyn Zayas-Davis, Cincinnati, Ohio

COMPLETE LIST OF ROUNDTABLES for REFORM

Glendale, Ariz.

WHEN: Tuesday, Aug. 6

WHERE: Glendale Chamber of Commerce

WHO: **John Augustine**, Arizona Nursery Association

Ian Danley, Program Director at Neighborhood Ministries

Jack Harris, Retired Phoenix Police Chief

Gary Kinnaman, Senior Pastor at Word of Grace Church in Mesa, Ariz.

AnnaMarie Knorr, Government Affairs Manager at Western Growers

Joe Sigg, Government Relations Director at the Arizona Farm Bureau

Representatives from the Glendale Chamber of Commerce

Representatives from the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Bloomington, Ill.

WHEN: Wednesday, Aug. 7

WHERE: McLean County Chamber of Commerce

WHO: **Pat Bane**, Pork Producer, McLean County Farm Bureau

Fr. Anthony Lee, Reverend Father, Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Charlie Moore, President and CEO, McLean County Chamber of Commerce

Mark Peters, Corporate Counsel, Caterpillar Inc.

Ben Taylor, Director, U.S. Chamber of Commerce- Great Lakes Region

Greeley, Colo.

WHEN: Thursday, August 8

WHERE: Colorado Livestock Association

WHO: **Ken Barbic**, Western Growers Association

Brock Herzberg, Capitol Focus LLC

Glenn Hirakata, Hirakata Farms

Mary Kraft, Quail Ridge Dairy

Susan Moore, La Luna Dairy
David Petrocco Sr., Petrocco Farms
Jon Slutsky, La Luna Dairy
Swine Industry Representatives
Greeley Faith Leaders

Pueblo, Colo.

WHEN: Friday, August 9
WHERE: The Office of Congressman Scott Tipton
WHO: *Pueblo business leaders, faith leaders, law enforcement, agriculture leaders and congressional staff*

Las Vegas, Nev. (SXSW V2 Vegas)

WHEN: Monday, August 12
WHERE: The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Belmont Ballroom 1
WHO: **Scott Allison**, CEO of Teamly
Andrew Crump, CEO of Bluefields
Rep. Joe Heck, (R-Nev.)
Alex Torrenegra, CEO of VoiceBunny
Mark Falzone, Deputy Director, National Immigration Forum (Moderator)

Downers Grove, Ill.

WHEN: Monday, August 12
WHERE: Tony Hu's Lao Sze Chuan
WHO: **Tariq Butt**, Deputy Medical Officer of ACCESS Community Health Network
Pedro J. Cevallos-Candau, Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of Primera Engineers, Ltd.
Tony Hu, Founder of Tony Hu Food Gourmet
David C. Namkung, Founder and Managing Partner, Clarity Partners, LLC
Jesse Ruiz, Corporate and Securities Partner, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Smita Shah, President and CEO of SPAAN Tech Inc.

Dayton, Ohio

WHEN: Monday, August 12
WHERE: St. Mary's Catholic Church
WHO: **Richard Biehl**, Director and Chief of Police, Dayton Police Department
Michael Hamilton, Executive Editor of the Ohio Conservative Review
Pastor Jose Jones, Hispanic Ministry Program Coordinator, College Hill Community Church
David Larson, Immigration Attorney with Altick & Corwin Co., L.P.A.
Damon Morris, Regional Director for Western Ohio, Ohio Attorney General's Office
Cathy Shanklin, Executive Director of the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations
Sister Maria Stacy, Director of the Dayton Catholic Hispanic Ministry and Committee Member for Welcome Dayton: Immigrant Friendly City

Centerville, Ga.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 13

WHERE: Houston County Library- Centerville Branch Location

WHO: Centerville business leaders, faith leaders and law enforcement

Evans, Ga.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 13

WHERE: Columbia County Library- Evans Branch

WHO: *Evans business leaders, faith leaders and law enforcement*

Grand Junction, Colo.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 13

WHERE: Jubilee Family Church

WHO: **Gary Cake**, Open Bible Fellowship in De Beque

Hans Weston, Jubilee Family Church in Grand Junction

Michelle Warren, Christian Community Development Association

Alex Alvarado, Iglesia Cristo la Roca in New Castle

Rudy Argueta, Centro Cristiano Getsemani in El Jebel

Gary Cake, Open Bible Fellowship in De Beque

Rosemary & Carlos Sluder, El Buen Pastor in Delta

Robin Vega, Iglesia Cristo La Roca in New Castle

Hans Weston, Jubilee Family Church in Grand Junction

Gainesville, Ga.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 14

WHERE: Hall County Library- Murrayville Branch

WHO: Gainesville business, faith, law enforcement and agriculture leaders, and congressional staff

Turlock, Calif.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 14

WHERE: 10532 Golf Link Road

Turlock, CA

WHO: Turlock business, faith, law enforcement and agriculture leaders, and congressional staff

Champaign, Ill.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 14

WHERE: Champaign County Chamber of Commerce

WHO: **Dave Bender**, Executive Director, American Council of Engineering Companies; Chair, Logan County Republican Party; Co-Chair, Illinois Business Immigration Coalition

Mark Curran, Sheriff, Lake County

Mark Peters, Executive Director, University YMCA

Janet Rasmussen, Pastor, First Mennonite Church, Champaign-Urbana

Lawrenceville, Ga.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 14
WHERE: Gwinnett County Public Library- Collins Hill Branch
WHO: **Jerry Baker**, Intercultural Specialist and State Missionary, Georgia Baptist Convention
Charles Kuck, Managing Partner, Kuck Immigration Partners LLC.
Frank Mulcahy, Executive Director, Georgia Catholic Conference

Wausau, Wis.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 14
WHERE: UW Marathon County Center for Civic Engagement-Sonnentag Room
WHO: **John Huebscher**, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference
Ed Lump, President and CEO of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association
Darryl D. Morin, National Vice President- Midwest of the League of United Latin American Citizens
Tim O'Harrow, Dairy Farmer
Scott R. Parks, Marathon County Sheriff
Tom Still, President of the Wisconsin Tech Council
Erich Straub, Partner at Straub Immigration LLC

Rome, Ga.

WHEN: Thursday, August 15
WHERE: Rome-Floyd County Library, Oostanaula Room
WHO: **Charles Kuck**, Managing Partner, Kuck Immigration Partners LLC.
Karen Bremer, Executive Director of the Georgia Restaurant Association
Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials

Columbus, Ind.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 20
WHERE: Columbus Learning Center- Summerville Room
WHO: **Doug Leman**, Executive Director of Indiana Dairy Producers
Rudy Olivo, Former Columbus Police Officer
Dr. Rich Schenck, Director of Urban Initiative and Leadership Team Member for Community Based Ministries at Indiana Central District of The Wesleyan Church
Glenn Tebbe, Executive Director of the Indiana Catholic Conference

Columbus, Ohio

WHEN: Tuesday, August 20
WHERE: YWCA Columbus, Huntington Hall Ballroom
WHO: **Hearcel Craig**, Columbus City Council Member
Michael Dalby, President and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Ginther, President of the Columbus City Council

Maria Klemack-McGraw, Grove City Council Member

Duncan, S.C.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 20

WHERE: River Falls Country Club

WHO: **Chalmers Carr**, Executive Board Member of the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council

Dr. Jim Goodroe, Director of Missions at the Spartanburg County Baptist Network

Dan Reynolds, Police Chief of the City of Greer

Omaha, Neb.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 21

WHERE: Metropolitan Community College, Fort Omaha Campus

WHO: **David Z. Brown**, Managing Partner, Brown Immigration Law, LLC

James Cunningham, Executive Director, Nebraska Catholic Conference

Scott J. Jones, Bishop of the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church

Dan Mulhall, Mulhall's Landscaping, Nursery and Garden Center

Jim Partington, Executive Director, Nebraska Restaurant Association

Elkhart, Ind.

WHEN: Thursday, August 22

WHERE: Elkhart Chamber of Commerce Board Room

WHO: **Fred Everett**, Director of the Office of Family Life, Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Kyle Hannon, President and CEO, Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

Randy Johnson, Senior Vice President, Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Rich Schenck, Pastor, Lakeview Wesleyan Church

Dunn, N.C.

WHEN: Thursday, August 22

WHERE: Sagebrush Restaurant

WHO: **Jonathan Bushhouse**, Chief of Staff, Campbell University College Republicans

Dana Cope, Executive Director, State Employees Association of North Carolina

Republican Congresswoman Renee Ellmers (NC-02)

John Faison, North Carolina Organizer, Evangelical Immigration Table

State Representative David Lewis (R-NC 53rd District), North Carolina Farmer and Farm Equipment Dealer

Cathy O'Dell, Government Affairs, Dunn Area Chamber of Commerce

State Senator Ronald Rabin (R-NC 12th District), Retired Colonel, U.S. Army

Wilson, N.C.

WHEN: Thursday, August 22

WHERE: Wilson County Public Library

WHO: **Linda Andrews**, Legislative Director, North Carolina Farm Bureau

John Faison, North Carolina Organizer, Evangelical Immigration Table

Ryan Simons, President, Wilson County Chamber of Commerce

CJ Stephens, Retired North Carolina State Highway Patrol Officer and Member of the State Employees Association of North Carolina

Representatives from Democratic Congressman G.K. Butterfield's (NC-01) office will also be present.

Neenah, Wis.

WHEN: Monday, August 26

WHERE: Calvary Bible Church

WHO: **Mike Collison**, Associate Pastor, Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church

Dr. David Jones, Professor of Criminal Justice, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Fr. Joe Mattern, St. Mary's Parish, Omro

Matthew Soerens, Field Director, Evangelical Immigration Table

Chief Kevin E. Wilkinson, Neenah Police Department

Brigham City, Utah

WHEN: Monday, August 26

WHERE: Representative Bishop's Office

WHO: **Republican Congressman Rob Bishop (UT-01)**

Chris Dallin, Intermountain Healthcare

Sandy Emile, Cache Chamber of Commerce

Dave Hardman, Ogden Weber Chamber of Commerce

Monica Holdaway, Brigham City Area Chamber of Commerce

Jim Smith, Davis Chamber of Commerce

Tim Wheelwright, Durham, Jones & Pinegar Law

Lafayette, Ind.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 27

WHERE: Lafayette Bank & Trust Community Room

WHO: **Mikel Berger**, President, Lafayettech

Jason Dombkowski, Chief of Police, West Lafayette Police Department

Dr. Suresh Garimella, Chief Global Affairs Officer, Purdue University

Levi Huffman, Farmer, Owner, Huffman & Hawbaker Farms, LLC.

Father Michael McKinney, All Saints Parish

Mark Peters, Corporate Counsel, Caterpillar

Pastor Drew Poppleton, Heartland Community Church

Joe Seaman, President and CEO, Greater Lafayette Commerce

Orange Park, Fla.

WHEN: Tuesday, August 27

WHERE: First Baptist Church of Orange Park

WHO: **David Tarkington**, Lead Pastor, First Baptist Church Orange Park

Jose Vega, Senior Pastor, Renacer Iglesia Bautista

Cincinnati, Ohio

WHEN: Tuesday, August 27

WHERE: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

WHO: **Jeff Cook**, Associate Professor of Biblical Education and Urban Studies, Cedarville University; Member, Christian Community Development Association

Ken Natorp, CEO, W.A. Natorp Co.

Charlie Norman, Regional Director for Southwest Ohio, Ohio Attorney General's Office

Dave Scharfenberger, Justice for Immigrants Coordinator, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Marilyn Zayas-Davis, Immigration Attorney, Law Office of Marilyn Zayas-Davis

Troy Jackson, Director, Ohio Prophetic Voices

Tony Stieritz, Director, Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Social Action Office

Nashville, Tenn.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 28

WHERE: The First Amendment Center

WHO: **Wes Blumenshine**, Associate General Counsel, Caterpillar Inc.

Catherine Glover, President, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Hon. Alberto Gonzales, former U.S. Attorney General

Randy Johnson, Senior Vice President, Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Ryan Peebles, President, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Mid Tennessee Chapter

Eddie Poole, Lead Pastor, MJLife Church of Mt. Juliet

Lacy Upchurch, President, Tennessee Farm Bureau

Fort Wayne, Ind.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 28

WHERE: First Wayne Street United Methodist Church

WHO: **Rev. Lloyd (Sam) Cunningham**, Catholic Priest/Spiritual Director, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Centro Arnoldo

Stuart Hamblen, Chief of Police, Angola Police Department

Rev. Joe Johns, Director of Missional Living, Fellowship Missionary Church

Rev. Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab, Director of Ministry Programs, The Lutheran Foundation

John Metzger, Farmer

Barry Sharp, Owner and President, S&S Steel Services Inc.

Minneapolis, Minn.

WHEN: Thursday, August 29

WHERE: U.S. Bank

WHO: **Jason Adkins**, Executive Director, Minnesota Catholic Conference

Bill Blazer, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Business Development, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Amber Hanson, Associate Director of Public Policy, Minnesota Farm Bureau

Doug Loon, Vice President of Regional Affairs and Advocacy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Patrick Lunemann, President, Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Carl Nelson, President, Transform Minnesota: The Evangelical Network

Lexington, KY

WHEN: Noon Monday, Sept. 9

Pastor Knox and others will be available for comments and interviews at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Thoroughbred Crossing Community Center
1346 Village Dr. (D building)
Lexington, KY 40504

WHO: **Carlos Knox**, Pastor, Iglesia Nueva Vida
Other local pastors from the Lexington area

Raleigh, NC

WHEN: Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 12:30 p.m. EDT

WHERE: 5301 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27612

WHO: Keynote: **Secretary Michael Chertoff**, Former Secretary of Homeland Security, BPC Immigration Task Force Member

Panel Discussion to Follow:

Raudel Hernandez, Pastor, Summit en Español

Charles Kuck, Managing Partner, Kuck Immigration Partners LLC

Bert Lemkes, Co-owner, VanWingerden International, Inc.

Larry Wooten, President, North Carolina Farm Bureau

Statewide Telephonics:

Florida Statewide Telephonic

Wednesday, August 28

Brewster Bevis, Senior Vice President, Associated Industries of Florida

Jerry Demings, Sheriff, Orange County, Fla.

Mr. Ralph Egües, Executive Director, National Hispanic Landscape Alliance

Heather Kenyon, President and CEO, Tampa Bay Technology Forum

Kevin Morgan, Executive Assistant to the President, Florida Farm Bureau

Beneva Schulte, Executive Director, inSPIRE STEM USA (Moderator on all five calls)

Michael Sheedy, Director of Public Policy, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops

Texas Statewide Telephonic

Wednesday, August 28

Steve Case, Chairman and CEO, Revolution; Co-Founder, America Online

Tim Moore, Senior Pastor, Walk Worthy Baptist Church

Dr. Suzii Paynter, Executive Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Steve Pringle, Legislative Director, Texas Farm Bureau

Beneva Schulte, Executive Director, inSPIRE STEM USA (Moderator on all five calls)

California Statewide Telephonic

Wednesday, August 28

Ruben Guerra, Chairman and CEO, Latin Business Association

Mike McClenahan, Pastor, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, Solana Beach, Calif.

Rayne Pegg, Federal Policy Manager, California Farm Bureau Federation:

Beneva Schulte, Executive Director, inSPIRE STEM USA (Moderator on all five calls)

Joe Trauger, Vice President of Human Resources Policy, National Association of Manufacturers

North Carolina Statewide Telephonic

Thursday, August 29

John Faison, CEO, Centro Internacional de Raleigh

Beneva Schulte, Executive Director, inSPIRE STEM USA (Moderator on all five calls)

John White, Vice President, Durham Chamber of Commerce

Illinois Statewide Telephonic

Thursday, August 29

Sgt. Sara Balmes, Lake County Sheriff's Office

Shelly Carlin, Senior Vice President, Human Resources & Communications, Motorola Solutions

Ujjwal Gupta, CEO, Benchprep

Terry Howerton, CEO, TechNexus; Chair Emeritus, Illinois Tech Association

Mike Langer, Pastor, Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church

Beneva Schulte, Executive Director, inSPIRE STEM USA (Moderator on all five calls)

TOP SEVEN NEWS CLIPS

National

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Coalition of Evangelicals launches ad campaign in key congressional districts (103 hits)

MARKETPLACE (NPR): August is a Busy Season for Interest Groups

Local

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Business leaders make case for immigration reform

FT. WAYNE NEWS-SENTINEL: Bibles, Badges and Business looks for support for federal immigrant reform bill

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD: Carter talks to media about immigration reform

LAS VEGAS SUN: Heck yearns for comprehensive discussion, not rhetoric, on immigration reform

SAN ANTONIO NEWS-EXPRESS (Lucado Op-Ed): The Biblical Case for Immigration Reform

National

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Coalition of Evangelicals launches ad campaign in key congressional districts (103 hits)

August 20, 2013

<http://www.chron.com/news/texas/article/Evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign-4750393.php?cmpid=htx>

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of Evangelical groups, including the Southern Baptist Convention, hopes to give an earful to key congressional lawmakers about immigration reform.

The Evangelical Immigration Table, formed last year, has launched a \$400,000 radio ad campaign in 56 congressional districts. The ads will feature local pastors and national voices encouraging passage of immigration reform without delay. Dr. Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission says the ads will air for two weeks "at saturation rates."

Pastor Felix Cabrera of Oklahoma City's Quail Creek Baptist Church says the collateral damage of the current policy that he has seen includes the detention and separation of parents from children born in the U.S.

And Amarillo, Texas, pastor Stan Coffey says Evangelicals should let their voices be heard on the issue and that he believes "this is what Jesus would have done if he were here."

MARKETPLACE (NPR): August is a Busy Season for Interest Groups

<http://www.marketplace.org/topics/business/august-busy-season-interest-groups>

Heat, sweat, and, now, activists are unavoidable facts of life for members of Congress in August. An army of interest groups has been pushing various causes this month.

Opponents of President Barack Obama's health care law are demanding it be defunded. And an unusual coalition of the left and right -- including local police, business groups and church leaders -- is pushing for immigration reform. Their ad campaign cost \$400,000, and its organizer Ali Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum, says you ignore August at your peril.

"Bills will either get closer to the finish line or die on the rocks of despair during the August recess," he says, pointing to nearly 50 immigration roundtables his coalition held this month. "We think we have won the August recess."

That kind of win-lose talk reminds some Congress watchers of a politician's campaign.

"That's the kind of thing you used to hear only from candidates," says Allan Lichtman, an American University history professor. "So you now have a lobbyist keeping score to see who wins in terms of wielding influence as opposed to getting elected."

Lichtman says a lot of the interest groups active this August hired Washington political operatives to advise them. They set up war rooms and rapid response teams. August is one big business opportunity for the old Washington hands, who want to impress and attract future clients, according to GOP strategist John Feehery.

"What they're doing here is, like anything else, they're trying to build a resume," he says. "They're trying to build their case that -- why other people should hire them."

So they can win August.

Local

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Business leaders make case for immigration reform

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/08/28/4442464/business-leaders-make-case-for.html>

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Prominent business leaders and Republicans held a forum in Nashville on Wednesday to build support for immigration reform among the public and members of Congress.

The Senate passed a far-reaching immigration measure in June that includes border security, workplace enforcement and a path to citizenship. But the majority of House Republicans remain opposed to any path to citizenship, creating concerns that legislators will be unable to craft a compromise bill.

Part of the idea of the Wednesday forum was to keep momentum for reform going during the congressional recess.

Speaking to an audience that included representatives from the offices of U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn and U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, all Republicans, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Randy Johnson rejected the idea that immigration reform is destined to fail once again.

Johnson said there has been a "seismic shift" on the issue in recent years, with many people now agreeing that immigrants need some sort of legal status.

"Things have changed," he said. "Six years ago, people were still talking about anything but deportation as amnesty."

Johnson also noted that while many conservative Christians were against immigration reform the last time it came up before Congress, this time a coalition of evangelical Christians has begun actively promoting the reform effort.

"They have been very helpful in reaching out to Republicans," he said.

The Wednesday panel included Pastor Eddie Poole, of the Life Church of Mt. Juliet, who said he probably was one of those evangelicals who were against immigration reform last time around. Since then, however, a young woman at his church fell in love with and married a man who was living in the U.S. illegally.

When the husband applied for a visa, he was required to return to Mexico for a year and a half before he could come back. During that time, the wife was working two jobs and taking care of her son and her disabled father.

The husband "kind of got lost in the system, we felt like," Poole said.

Another panelist, Bob Pitts, senior adviser to the Associated Builders and Contractors of Middle Tennessee, said the businesses he works with that employ immigrants want to obey the law, but they need the regulations to be simple and clear.

Both Pitts and Wes Blumenshine, general counsel for Caterpillar, Inc., said businesses need more highly skilled workers.

Blumenshine said there is no financial advantage to hiring foreign workers, because companies are required to pay the prevailing wage. It's just that there are not enough skilled American workers to fill the need, he said.

"Jobs go unfilled and our competitiveness is hurt. ... This is not hypothetical. The facts bear it out."

Lacy Upchurch, president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, said farmers also are not looking to foreign workers for inexpensive labor. They are willing to pay unskilled workers well, but need a dependable labor force.

"For farmers all across the state of Tennessee, the number one issue is the uncertainty of labor. ...We need an adequate supply of farm labor for the success of Tennessee agriculture and U.S. agriculture."

Upchurch said he believes the current situation is one of de facto amnesty for the estimated 11 million people in the country illegally.

Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said he would like for everyone in the country to be here under some kind of legal status.

"When our laws are ignored with impunity, it breeds disrespect for the law," he said.

FT. WAYNE NEWS-SENTINEL: Bibles, Badges and Business looks for support for federal immigrant reform bill
<http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130829/NEWS/130829592>

Barry Sharp, owner /president of S&S Steel Services would like to see a change in current immigration laws.

In 2011 the IRS, immigration services and finally the Department of Transportation audited Sharp's company, which employs 170 workers. Workers were asked to produce their Social Security cards for validation. Nearly half the staff, 83 people, quit. All three audits turned up nothing.

Sharp spoke Wednesday morning as part of a panel at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, 300 E Wayne, sponsored by Bibles, Badges and Business. The group is lobbying for the federal Immigration reform bill. The panel was made up of area law enforcement, clergy, and business owners.

The Senate approved a sweeping immigration bill on June 27, and now it has moved on to the House. Bibles, Badges and Business has been hosting round tables around the state to inform the public about the need for change in the current laws and why the changes would be welcomed.

The new immigration reform would allow millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States to get on the path to becoming legal citizens. The group would like to have the public contact their representatives in Washington to voice their opinions. Currently, according to Angela Adams, Bibles, Badges and Business regional coordinator, said lawmakers are only hearing from the far right on this matter.

Sharp said the dozens of employees who left his company were all hard workers who wanted a job, but they were afraid. Sharp, who had been looking for non-union labor when he moved his company from Muncie to Anderson, couldn't find many locals willing to work. But he had been able to find people eager to work from

within the growing Hispanic population in the area. With the loss of 83 workers, Sharp's production dropped, and he was forced to hire other people. Now he said he deals with drug problems at his factory, with several people being arrested for the use of methamphetamine.

"I still see my former employees around town, and they want to come back and work," Sharp said.

But without legal documentation they can't. Sharp said these are not people who are taking jobs away from legal residents; he has had a hard time filling the vacant positions they left.

Northeast Indiana dairy farmer John Metzger echoed Sharp's frustration with the current immigration laws.

Metzger said he had second thoughts about speaking up on the topic of immigration reform because he is afraid he too could go through the audit process. Like Sharp, he requests documentation from his employees and said he has done nothing wrong.

Work on his large operation is back-breaking physical labor and he can't find locally many people who are willing to put in the long hours of hard work. Should he ever have to let his workers go, he is afraid he would be out of business in three days. There are simply not enough members of his family to fill in.

Another panelist, the Rev. Lloyd Cunningham, Catholic priest/spiritual director at St. Patrick Catholic Church, compared the United States' lack of welcome to the current undocumented immigrant population and outdated immigration system to the unwelcoming actions of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Book of Genesis.

The Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, director of ministry programs for the Lutheran Foundation, said it is as simple as recognizing the population as human beings who have the same rights as everyone else. Currently they are operating under a double system. They can work, but they are not receiving any of the benefits of documented immigrants, and there is no path for them to follow toward getting citizenship, Mengsteab said. These people are living in the shadows.

Stuart Hamblen, chief of the Angola Police Department, was also on the panel and said under a current state law he is supposed to report any undocumented immigrants to federal authorities.

Hamblen said in his community these immigrants are some the most law-abiding residents he has and he doesn't have time to run around and arrest these people.

"That law is no good and they need to get rid of it," Hamblen said.

He would like to see some sort of a system in place so that when undocumented immigrants cross the border they could immediately get legally documented and get on the path to citizenship.

The problem goes beyond the spectrum of low-skilled entry-level jobs, Angela Adams pointed out, there are many students on visa's in the country learning the high-tech skills that are so in demand these days. But once they achieve their degree they can't stay. One of the components in the Immigration reform bill could change

this, according to Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI). Expanding the high-skilled nonimmigrant visas in Indiana could add more than 620 new high skilled workers in the state by 2014.

According to research by (REMI), in Indiana “more than \$1,785 will be added to the Gross State Product in 2014 and this will increase to more than \$8,453 by 2020.” REMI also estimated “by 2020 real personal income per capita in Indiana will increase by \$64.”

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD: Carter talks to media about immigration reform

Chris McGuiness, Aug 20, 2013

http://kdhnews.com/news/politics/carter-talks-to-media-about-immigration-reform/article_19e6c72e-094e-11e3-9914-0019bb30f31a.html

BELTON — U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, held a news conference Monday on the subject of immigration reform.

Carter spoke to members of the media at the Central Texas Council of Governments building in Belton after a meeting with representatives from area businesses and leaders of local evangelical churches. Both groups, Carter said, had questions about legislative efforts to reform the country’s immigration system.

“We have some problems to work out in this area,” said Carter, who serves as the chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. “We’ve been talking about possible solutions.”

Carter’s appearance in Belton comes after members of the U.S. Senate passed an immigration reform bill in July.

Speaking Wednesday, Carter said he believed the Senate bill would not pass in the House, and mentioned his work with a bipartisan group of members to create their own immigration reform legislation.

Carter said the group set out to create comprehensive immigration legislation that addresses multiple areas of the issue.

“Part of what’s wrong with our immigration system is that we keep trying to patch it up,” Carter said. “We need comprehensive reform.”

Reform includes taking into account the needs of business owners, especially in the technology industry, where many companies hire employees from overseas to fill the sector’s jobs.

“We need to make sure that we are able to get the best and brightest and remain competitive,” said Wendy Reilly, director of state government affairs for TechAmerica’s southern region.

Reform also includes tackling the difficult problem of just what to do with the nation’s millions of undocumented immigrants. Carter said part of the group’s reforms would ask them to admit they entered the country without proper documentation.

“We don’t want to reward bad behavior,” Carter said. “They are going to have to admit that they’ve come here illegally.”

While lawmakers in Washington hash out just how to fix the nation’s immigration policy, Carter also called for compassion for those the policy will impact, pointing to the presence of local religious leaders present at the meeting Monday.

“The evangelical community wants to remind people that we are dealing with human beings with families,” Carter said. “They should be treated with respect and compassion.”

Carter also touched on other issues, including the need to strengthen border security. No matter what kind of immigration reform Washington lawmakers do end up passing, Carter noted the importance of making sure the law would be enforced.

“If we do all this work and the (Obama) administration doesn’t enforce the law, we’ve wasted our time,” Carter said.

LAS VEGAS SUN: Heck yearns for comprehensive discussion, not rhetoric, on immigration reform

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2013/aug/13/heck-yearns-comprehensive-discussion-not-rhetoric/>

U.S. Rep. Joe Heck knows the “pathway to citizenship” is the sticky part of the immigration-reform debate that sends politicians into frazzled fits of tongue-tied constituent coddling.

The second-term Republican congressman from Henderson has been more forthcoming about his thoughts than many of his GOP counterparts in the House. He calls the recently approved Senate plan to legalize the status and, after a decade or more, provide opportunities for citizenship to the 11 million immigrants residing in the country illegally “reasonable.”

Yet, as the House takes a piecemeal approach to addressing the various facets of the immigration system that the Senate bill tackled in one large piece of legislation passed in June, Heck acknowledges there is no guarantee a House bill will emerge that takes on the thorny issue of citizenship.

With the House engaged in formulating a counter to the Senate plan for reforming the immigration system, Heck wants everyone to see the larger picture. To that end, he participated in a panel discussion on immigration Monday morning at the [South by Southwest V2V conference](#) at the Cosmopolitan.

“When you first start off, everybody is concentrating on the issue of the undocumented, but as you start to peel back, like we have today with this panel, you realize there is a lot more to immigration reform than just that one piece,” Heck said in an interview after the panel.

“There’s a whole lot more underlying immigration reform that is critical to the future economy of our nation, whether it’s high-tech, whether it’s agricultural guest visas, whether it’s E-Verify to protect against worker

exploitation. ... There are so many pieces to it. I wish that the discussion was always more comprehensive. Because then I think people would better understand that this truly is in our vital national and economic interests.”

Mark Falzone, deputy director of the [National Immigration Forum](#), a nonprofit organization that works to influence federal immigration policy and supported passage of the Senate bill, moderated the panel. The event was put on by the forum’s [“Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform,”](#) an organization of religious leaders, law enforcement personnel and business community members seeking to influence Congress.

Joining Heck on the panel were three immigrant startup business founders: Scott Allison, Alex Torrenegra and Andrew Crump. Both the House and Senate have introduced legislation that would expand avenues for high-skilled workers and entrepreneurs to come to the country, and that is where the panelists focused.

Torrenegra, an immigrant from Colombia and CEO of [VoiceBunny](#), said he recently spent \$21,000 applying for three high-skilled labor visas. Two of the applications never were processed because the U.S. cap on the visas was met so quickly.

“One application is being looked at, but the other two were \$14,000 wasted,” Torrenegra said.

Torrenegra, whose company is based in San Francisco, said he ended up hiring one of the “very talented” people he was trying to bring to the United States to work from abroad. He paid for that employee to hire his own staff of four people, jobs Torrenegra said could have gone to people in the United States.

Crump, whom the [Vegas Tech Fund](#) lured to Las Vegas, echoed Torrenegra’s thoughts. He said his small company, [Bluefields](#), spent three months and \$50,000 on flights, lawyers and application fees to get the right team in place, and not all of its visa requests were granted.

“I’d seriously question whether I would go the same route again,” said Crump, a London native.

The comments resonated with Heck, who expressed concern the U.S. was falling behind other countries in how it lured talented workers and entrepreneurs.

After the panel, Heck visited a Roberto’s Taco Shop in Henderson where he met with Reynaldo Robledo and Rogelio Robledo, members of the of the family that founded the chain almost 50 years ago. Heck learned the ropes of running a Mexican restaurant, discussed policy with the Robledos, and expanded on the morning’s discussion.

“We already are losing out to other countries that are more willing and have less onerous pathways to allow entrepreneurs into their country,” Heck said, noting immigrants were more likely than native-born residents to start their own businesses.

"If we want to capture a share of that industry, then we need to be a little more welcoming than we are. There was the one example of the CEO of VoiceBunny, who invested \$20,000 to try and get somebody here on an H1-B visa, and it got denied. That was money he'll never recoup," Heck said.

Heck said he was working with other representatives on a House version of the DREAM Act, previously failed legislation that offers legal status to immigrants who arrived in the United States at a young age and had served in the military or gone to college. Heck wants to require applicants to earn either a two- or four-year degree, not just have attended college. Those receiving trade certificates, such as completed training in auto mechanics, also would qualify.

Heck previously voted to defund Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the Obama administration program that targeted the same demographic of immigrants. The program, Heck said, was an overreach of executive power. His vote, he said, did not reflect his opinion of the DREAM Act in general.

Heck knows the toughest battle of immigration reform will be over any proposal that offers eventual citizenship to people in the country illegally. Recent rhetoric from his fellow congressman, Steve King, R-Iowa, that labeled immigrants who cross the border illegally as predominantly drug mules, is counterproductive and "inflammatory," Heck said.

Reynaldo Robledo's parents came from Mexico, and, after working several jobs, started their restaurant franchise in 1964 in San Diego. Robledo shared a sentiment with panelist Torrenegra, arguing the most important aspect of reform is to allow immigrants residing here illegally the opportunity to work and participate in society.

"I don't think we need to rush to make people here illegally citizens," Robledo said. "They want to be able to live here and work, but not everybody wants to be a citizen."

Heck found consensus on the SXSW panel and at Roberto's, but in the beginning of September when the congressional recess ends, he will have to return to the House, where harmony is more elusive.

"The primary sticky issue is the pathway to earned citizenship, or legalization or documentation or whatever it may be," Heck said. "That is where, certainly in the House, we are having the most difficulty in reaching consensus. ... That last piece that has to be addressed is what is going to be done with those in undocumented status, and there isn't unanimity in the House."

SAN ANTONIO NEWS-EXPRESS (Lucado Op-Ed): The Biblical Case for Immigration Reform

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/The-biblical-case-for-immigration-reform-4772029.php>

In just a few short years, the United States will be the most racially diverse nation in all of human history.

The white population is shrinking. The black population will grow at nearly twice the rate of the white population. The most dramatic growth will be among Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders. We can expect an increasing patchwork of cultures, languages and traditions.

And, we do well to wonder, how will we respond? Will we become a tinderbox of conflict? Or a melting pot of cooperation?

The Bible was written for times like these.

Every page, it seems, contains an example of diverse people finding common ground. I am thinking of one story in particular: the encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-29). Two men could hardly be more different.

The Ethiopian was dark-skinned; Philip was light. The official hailed from distant Africa; Philip grew up in nearby Jerusalem. The traveler was a man of means. Philip was a persecuted evangelist. And then there was the delicate matter of testosterone levels. Philip was the father of four girls (Acts 21:9). The official was a eunuch. No wife or kids or plans for either.

A wall separated the two men: a thick-bricked wall of divergent social status, skin color, nationality and domesticity. But they found common ground. The ambassador invited Philip to ride with him and discuss the Bible. Philip didn't hesitate. He climbed into the chariot and shared his thoughts. He "preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'" (Acts 8:36, New Kings James Version).

Good question. What if Philip had said, "Your skin color is a hindrance." Or "Your social class is an issue." Or "Now that you mention it, your nationality is a problem."

But Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And (the Ethiopian) answered and said, "I believe that [Jesus Christ](#) is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37).

Next thing you know, the dignitary is stepping out of the baptismal waters, Philip is on to his next assignment, and we are left with a glimpse into God's heart. He loves all people.

"(God) tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. ... Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody. Christ brought us together through his death on the Cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility" (Ephesians 2:14-16, The Message).

What about the walls in your world?

Have you been taught to distrust and avoid certain people? The liberal academic? The inner-city Hispanic? The white-skinned, white-collared executive? The Asian or Indian?

This question is especially relevant as we discuss the issue of immigration. Is it possible to extend a hand toward those who want to work hard and care for their families? Can we create a pathway to citizenship that, at once, respects the law and shows compassion for the individual?

I hope we can.

Perhaps it is time to remove a few walls.

[*Max Lucado*](#) is a member of the Evangelical Immigration Table, a national group supporting broad bipartisan immigration reform based on biblical principles.

Summary

Total Number of News Hits: 375

Bibles, Badges and Business Roundtables Hits: 138

- National: 12
- Alabama: 1
- Arizona: 3
- Colorado: 7
- Florida: 5
- Georgia: 4
- Illinois: 8
- Indiana: 13
- Louisiana: 2
- Minnesota: 3
- Nevada: 11
- North Carolina: 24
- Ohio: 3
- South Carolina: 6
- Tennessee: 10
- Texas: 6
- Utah: 2
- Virginia: 2
- Wisconsin: 16

Evangelical Immigration Table Radio Ad hits: 237

- National: 60
- Alabama: 4
- Alaska: 1
- Arizona: 4
- California: 10
- Colorado: 3
- Connecticut: 5
- DC: 1
- Florida: 6
- Georgia: 1
- Hawaii: 1
- Illinois: 3
- Indiana: 12
- Iowa: 4
- Kansas: 3
- Kentucky: 2
- Louisiana: 4
- Maryland: 1
- Massachusetts: 3
- Michigan: 1
- Minnesota: 1
- Mississippi: 1
- Missouri: 3
- Montana: 3
- Nebraska: 3
- Nevada: 1
- New Hampshire: 1
- New Jersey: 4

New Mexico: 1
 New York: 2
 North Carolina: 2
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Bibles, Badges and Business Roundtables for Reform

National

ASSOCIATED PRESS (North Carolina): Former Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff visits NC to discuss immigration overhaul debate

September 10, 2103

<http://www.tribtown.com/view/story/c2556942073b4e0db88a915eabaoadf9/NC--Homeland-Secretary>

RALEIGH, N.C. — The former head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security wants to talk about how to overhaul the nation's immigration laws with representatives of North Carolina agricultural and Hispanic communities.

Michael Chertoff is participating Tuesday in a discussion on immigration laws at the headquarters of North Carolina Farm Bureau in Raleigh.

Chertoff was homeland security department secretary during the second administration of President George W. Bush and was a lead negotiator in attempts at immigration reform in Washington in 2007. He's now a member of an immigration task force assembled by the Bipartisan Policy Center, which was founded by former U.S. senators of both major parties to promote solutions to problems through respectful dialogue.

Farm Bureau President Larry Wooten also plans to participate in the discussion.

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<http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20130910/APN/1309100596>

Charlotte City and Press (NC)

<http://charlotte.cityandpress.com/node/6772378>

Charlotte Observer (NC)

http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/09/10/4301800/ex-cabinet-chief-visiting-nc-for.html#.Ui9fmm_wrzv

Daily Advance (NC)

<http://www.dailyadvance.com/ap/staten/ex-cabinet-chief-visiting-nc-immigration-forum-2156831>

The Daily Comet (LA)

<http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20130910/APN/1309100596>

The Daily Reflector (NC)

<http://www.reflector.com/ap/staten/ex-cabinet-chief-visiting-nc-immigration-forum-2156831>

The Daytona Beach News-Journal (FL)

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/article/20130910/APN/1309100596>

The Dispatch (NC)

<http://www.the-dispatch.com/article/20130910/APN/1309100596>

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http://www.fox43tv.com/news/north-carolina/ap-north-carolina/excabinet-chief-visiting-nc-for-immigration-forum_48016541

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Houston Chronicle (TX)

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The Lakeland Ledger (FL)

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20130910/APN/1309100596>

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The Sarasota Herald-Tribune (FL)

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20130910/APN/1309100596>

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The Tribune (IN)

<http://www.tribtown.com/view/story/c2556942073b4eodb88a915eabaoadf9/NC--Homeland-Secretary>

WBTV (NC)

<http://www.wbvtv.com/story/23387050/ex-cabinet-chief-visiting-nc-for-immigration-forum>

WCTI12 (NC)

<http://www.wcti12.com/news/excabinet-chief-visiting-nc-for-immigration-forum/-/13530444/21862326/-/5pc3p7Z/-/index.html>

WNCT (NC)

<http://www.wnct.com/story/23394052/ex-cabinet-chief-visiting-nc-for-immigration-forum>

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<http://www.wspa.com/story/23387149/ex-cabinet-chief-visiting-nc-for-immigration-forum>

FOX NEWS LATINO: Former Homeland Security Head: Odds For Immigration Reform Are Much Better Than In 2007

By Elizabeth Llorente

Sept. 10, 2013

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2013/09/10/former-homeland-security-head-odds-for-immigration-reform-are-much-better-than/>

He had a ringside seat to the 2007 push to reform the immigration system.

He saw the force of the opponents to the proposal to overhaul U.S. immigration policy – particularly, the part of the measure that called for giving undocumented immigrants a chance to legalize their status.

Now, former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, who served under President George W. Bush, is again front and center as the nation debates how to reform a system that many on different sides of the issue agree is flawed.

But this time, Chertoff said, the opposition to reform is markedly less potent, and public opinion has tilted in favor of a sweeping overhaul.

“A wider group of people have become comfortable with the idea,” said Chertoff, who is speaking Tuesday in North Carolina about immigration and why the system must be revamped. “[They] understand that the current system is not working.”

Chertoff is a member of the Bipartisan Policy Center’s Immigration Task Force, which also includes former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros and former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell.

The group formed earlier this year to advise Congress on how to best reform the U.S. immigration system, which Rice said was “the hardest and most vexing issue.”

The group’s mission also has been to push for an overhaul of the nation’s immigration laws and a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States.

“Most people [now] understand this is the right thing to do,” Chertoff said.

Chertoff is pressing for a reform that tightens security, but that also makes it easier for people to legally enter and work in the United States.

“The draw for most of those people is employment,” he said of the undocumented population. “We need to create a robust [employment] verification system so people can have their status checked. We have to create a way to bring people in who want to work, and do it in a way that is transparent, that has secure identification, and that allows people who now are sneaking in to do a job by walking in through the front door.”

Tracking down and deporting the nation’s undocumented immigrants, Chertoff said, is unrealistic.

“It would cost maybe a trillion dollars and it’s impractical in a country of this size,” he said.

“The real issue is employment,” he said. “If we can get that under control, that will make a dent [in illegal immigration].”

Chertoff conceded that the focus in Congress on Syria, and whether to use a military strike to respond the chemical attack that killed some 1,500 Syrians with the alleged approval of the regime, complicates efforts to work on an immigration reform bill.

A bipartisan measure that passed in the Senate in late June included enhanced border security, expanded visas for high-tech and agricultural workers, and mandatory participation for employers in a federal system that would determine a prospective employee’s eligibility to work in this country. It also included a provision allowing for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who meet a strict set of criteria.

Those who prefer a strict approach to immigration say that legalization amounts to amnesty, and it would encourage more illegal immigration.

Others who want a tough immigration policy have said they would be willing to consider a path to legalization, but only after they are convinced that the borders have been secured.

Many advocates are concerned that immigration reform – which is now in the House of Representatives – will just be left to die by conservative Republicans who firmly oppose a pathway to legalization for undocumented immigrants. Republicans have a majority in the House.

Some observers of the immigration reform debate have expressed doubt that the House, already ambivalent over many aspects of reform proposals, will forge ahead with a vote on a bill this year.

The bigger challenge, however, Chertoff said, is the short legislative schedule for the remainder of the year and the heated debates in Congress over such issues as the debt, the Affordable Care Act and the Voting Rights Act.

“But this [immigration] is an issue that is not getting better,” he said. “From an economic standpoint and political standpoint everyone will do better the sooner we do it.”

In the spring, the bipartisan policy task force released a report that recommended that immigration reform include a path to legalization that would begin with a provisional status – something that members thought would encourage undocumented immigrants to come forward.

“This is a win-win-win [situation],” Chertoff said. “I’m a law enforcement person. If we dispel all the myths about immigration, immigration reform is a positive development. It’s better for the law enforcement community, better from an economic and humanitarian standpoint, better for people who come here for no other reason than to work. It’s a solution that benefits from all perspectives.”

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ITIC (Halataei Post): Badges, Bibles, and Businesses Join for Immigration Reform

By Andy Halataei (ITI)

August 29, 2013

<http://blog.itic.org/blog/badges-bibles-and-businesses-join-for-immigration-reform>

Throughout the summer, ITI and its member companies have joined with a broad coalition of religious groups, education advocates, state and local law enforcement agencies, and other business organizations to reinforce the national importance and urgency of immigration reform. One of the leading organizations we are partnering with is “[Badges, Bibles, and Business](#),” a network of faith, law enforcement and business leadership pulled together by the [National Immigration Forum](#). Members of Congress, home for the August recess, have been holding town hall meetings and roundtables with constituents, and immigration stakeholders have worked to make sure that constructive and productive conversations about immigration reform are part of the August agenda.

Today, Illinois members of our coalition joined for a call with news outlets from the Land of Lincoln. [Shelly Carlin](#), Senior Vice President for Human Resources & Communications at Schaumburg-based Motorola Solutions (an ITI member), underscored the economic urgency for action:

Action is critical, and it’s critical that we don’t wait. Comprehensive immigration reform is essential to improving the competitiveness of our country. Technology jobs in our particular sector go unfilled at the same time as our universities and colleges continue to attract highly talented graduates from all over the world.

....

We need action to address all aspects of immigration reform, to grow our economy, and to get businesses moving again.

You can hear all of [Shelly’s comments here](#).

Shelly noted that Motorola Solutions, at any one time, has several hundred software and engineering jobs that are open and go unfilled because there aren’t enough qualified individuals available in the U.S. It’s a reality that stretches across the technology sector. Right now, on the tech-jobs site [dice.com](#), you can find 16,761 open engineering jobs, 20,677 open positions for developers, and 21,231 science-based positions. The list goes on, from positions in software to testing to infrastructure to security. As Shelly noted on the call,

Immigration reform clearly is the answer to help us and other businesses in the near term.

The tech sector has been clear that immigration reform is only one part of the answer to the skilled workforce challenges facing the U.S. economy. Our companies invest in many global markets, but are also investing for growth across our own country. We recognize that the most promising opportunities -- with the right policies in place -- are here.

That’s why we embrace the opportunity to create more high-paying jobs with increased investments in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in America’s schools. We support proposals that would increase fees on skilled visas, with these additional revenues dedicated to preparing American students for STEM opportunities. These investments, Shelly noted, are complemented by skilled immigration reform, as both are essential to America’s long-term economic strength.

The United States lags far behind other countries in terms of the percentage of students who go into STEM. We think the long-term solution has to be that we get our students prepared and into STEM programs so that we can be competitive as an economy.

There are a number of important issues waiting for members of Congress when they head back to the Capitol, and immigration reform is one of them. Working with our member companies and our fellow immigration reform stakeholders, we will continue to keep the positive momentum for reform moving forward.

LATINOS POST: Insight: Quietly, Businesses Help Reshape U.S. Immigration Debate

August 26, 2013

<http://www.latinospost.com/articles/26197/20130826/insight-quietly-businesses-help-reshape-u-s-immigration-debate.htm>

If Texas Representative Ted Poe was looking for reassurance that backing an overhaul of U.S. immigration laws won't be political suicide for conservatives like him, he may have found it this week at a seafood restaurant on the outskirts of Houston.

During a roundtable discussion, several business executives told the five-term Republican that they can't find enough Americans willing to cook fajitas, repair sidewalks and perform other types of unglamorous work that keeps the fourth-largest U.S. city humming. A more robust guest-worker program would help, they said.

Poe told the executives he was working on a bill to tackle the problem and assured them that his fellow Republicans would help overhaul the U.S. immigration system in the coming months.

"Just doing nothing is a vote for the status quo, which is broken," Poe said of an immigration system that has struggled to deal with the estimated 11 million undocumented residents in the United States. As lawmakers return to their home districts in the final weeks of summer, hundreds of U.S. businesses have quietly mobilized to persuade Republicans such as Poe that an immigration overhaul is broadly supported by their constituents, even if some conservative activists loudly object.

The low-key strategy by businesses, along with a decision by several conservative lawmakers to spend the month campaigning against President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul, appears to have lowered the temperature of the immigration debate.

Public "town hall" meetings held by members of Congress this month generally have not disintegrated into the raucous, racially tinged sessions on immigration that some had feared.

As a result, many involved in the effort are cautiously optimistic that one of their top priorities of the past decade could become a reality sometime in the next year and a half - even though huge obstacles remain in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

"We're confident that this is going to get done sooner rather than later," said Glenn Hamer, president of the Arizona Chamber of Business and Industry.

Immigration reform has long been a top priority for business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which say that current laws and regulations make it too difficult to find workers they can't recruit at home and expose businesses to a tangle of conflicting labor regulations.

Business groups mobilized an army of lobbyists to push for passage of a sweeping immigration bill by the Democrat-controlled Senate in June. The bill - backed by 14 of the Senate's 46 Republicans and all 52 Democrats - included new visa programs for foreign workers, additional requirements for employers to verify workers' legal status, billions of dollars for extra security on the nation's borders, and a 10-year path to U.S. citizenship for undocumented workers.

But the dynamics on immigration are different in the House, where many lawmakers represent uniformly conservative districts that give them little incentive to compromise.

House Speaker John Boehner says his chamber won't even vote on the Senate bill. Instead, Republicans are expected to advance a series of bills that tackle the issue in pieces.

A path to citizenship is a non-starter for most of the 233 Republicans in the 435-seat House, though a few - including Florida Representative Daniel Webster and Illinois colleague Aaron Schock - have come out in support of the idea in recent weeks. The lobbying by businesses and other groups this summer has focused on urging House conservatives to pass a bill of their own that could emerge as the basis for compromise talks with the Senate.

Many Republicans are warming to a measure that would provide undocumented workers with some type of legal residency status, said Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA, a business group that organized the Poe roundtable. Those workers then could apply for citizenship through other means, she said.

"Can Republicans get to that path to legal status, and can Democrats accept that? That would be the makings of a sweet spot," Jacoby said.

'FRIEND OR FOE?'

The debate over immigration pits the business-friendly Republican establishment against many of the conservative Tea Party activists who helped the Republicans win control of the House three years ago. Many individual employers have been reluctant to publicly wade into the debate for fear of alienating potential customers, organizers of the effort say.

Conservative activists, by contrast, are not afraid to kick up dust in public.

Half an hour before Poe's event this week, members of a Tea Party group unfurled signs on a freeway overpass several miles away that questioned Poe's conservative bona fides. "TED POE: FRIEND OR FOE?" one sign read.

One member of the group, dispatched to monitor the roundtable, said she worried that "the elites, the One World Order types" were winning over conservative lawmakers such as Poe.

"I'm afraid since he's gone to Congress and he's been living in that cesspool that some of that dirt has rubbed off of him," said Jeanne Hall, a Houston grandmother who worries that immigrants are taking jobs from Americans.

Poe, a former state judge who built a national reputation for handing out stiff punishments, has gone from skeptic to advocate in recent years on immigration reform.

Poe's district is now 30 percent Hispanic, up from 13 percent when he was first elected in 2004. He has argued that his fellow Republicans need to work harder to appeal to this growing slice of the electorate to remain competitive with Democrats in future elections.

Last month he repudiated comments by Iowa Republican Representative Steve King after the immigration hard-liner said that young illegal immigrants who were brought into the country by their parents were more likely to wind up being drug smugglers than school valedictorians.

Unlike many of his fellow conservatives, Poe says tighter border security or tougher enforcement of existing laws won't solve the problem alone. He said he is undecided about how to treat undocumented workers.

"I'm not sure that the solution is. Deporting them is not the answer, but the other extreme is not the answer, saying, 'OK, amnesty for everybody here.' We can't do that, that's not in the works," he told Reuters.

STATING THEIR CASE, PRIVATELY

Beyond their roundtable meetings with lawmakers, some business owners are making sure they have a presence at town hall events.

After Poe's roundtable this week, Houston insurance agency owner Norm Adams planned to drive three hours to another lawmaker's public forum to ensure that opponents of an immigration overhaul weren't the only ones in the room.

"Every time we have a chance, we clearly prove that they are the minority. But they're the screamers, and the loudest," Adams said.

More often this summer, business groups are making their case behind closed doors.

In Minnesota, business executives have peppered Republican Representative John Kline with questions on immigration at several private events, said Bill Blazar, a vice president at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

In Colorado, a group of six business executives who collectively donated nearly \$500,000 to Republicans in the 2012 election, wrote a letter on July 29 to the state's four Republican House members last month urging them to support changes in immigration laws.

In Arizona, where Republicans in the state legislature have enacted one of the strictest immigration laws in the country, business leaders are arguing that a hard-line stance is not the political winner it once was.

In Texas, the state's close ties with Mexico and a sizable Hispanic population have made many business leaders especially aware of the need to do something on immigration, and the state's 24 Republican House members could play a pivotal role in the coming months. Representatives Sam Johnson and John Carter have worked for months to craft a compromise with Democrats, while Poe and others plan to push legislation on various issues.

Poe said he had heard a range of opinions from his constituents in recent weeks, from those who back the Senate plan to those who want to deport all of the nation's 11 million undocumented residents. But he had not heard anything to sway his conviction that the issue must be addressed. "There are those who with vocal rhetoric really don't want anything fixed," he said. "But immigration has been broken for a long time."

MARKETPLACE (NPR): August is a Busy Season for Interest Groups

Heat, sweat, and, now, activists are unavoidable facts of life for members of Congress in August. An army of interest groups has been pushing various causes this month.

Opponents of President Barack Obama's health care law are demanding it be defunded. And an unusual coalition of the left and right -- including local police, business groups and church leaders -- is pushing for immigration reform. Their ad campaign cost \$400,000, and its organizer Ali Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum, says you ignore August at your peril.

"Bills will either get closer to the finish line or die on the rocks of despair during the August recess," he says, pointing to nearly 50 immigration roundtables his coalition held this month. "We think we have won the August recess."

That kind of win-lose talk reminds some Congress watchers of a politician's campaign.

"That's the kind of thing you used to hear only from candidates," says Allan Lichtman, an American University history professor. "So you now have a lobbyist keeping score to see who wins in terms of wielding influence as opposed to getting elected."

Lichtman says a lot of the interest groups active this August hired Washington political operatives to advise them. They set up war rooms and rapid response teams. August is one big business opportunity for the old Washington hands, who want to impress and attract future clients, according to GOP strategist John Feehery.

"What they're doing here is, like anything else, they're trying to build a resume," he says. "They're trying to build their case that -- why other people should hire them."

So they can win August.

NBC LATINO: An August surprise? 'Avalanche of opposition' didn't happen, say immigration reform advocates

<http://nbclatino.com/2013/08/29/an-august-surprise-avalanche-of-opposition-didnt-happen-say-immigration-reform-advocates/>

by [Sandra Lilley](#), [@sandrallilley](#)

2:19 pm on 08/29/2013

Call it the August surprise. The 'epic battle' between those for and against immigration reform, which was supposed to be waged in town halls across the country during the congressional recess simply didn't happen, say immigration reform advocates.

"What's important is what we haven't been seeing; the opposition is not that organized," said Jeremy Robbins, Director of the [Partnership for a New American Economy](#), an bipartisan organization co-chaired by diverse leaders such as New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, NewsCorp CEO and Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch and Democratic San Antonio, Texas Mayor Julian Castro. The organization touts the economic benefits of immigration reform,

"An important August takeaway is how many Republicans with a real voice -- have come out and said this is good for the party," said Robbins, who joined other immigration reform supporters in a Friday conference call with reporters. He added that more than 100 of the top Republican donors and almost everyone from the former Bush White House has endorsed immigration reform, and said his group has organized in 140 House districts. He added an example of the broad support for reform is the group [Bibles, Badges and Business](#) - composed of religious leaders, law enforcement officials and business groups -- which has been actively involved in roundtables in key districts across the country.

In addition to these bipartisan and center-right groups, the [AFL-CIO's](#) Tom Snyder said the labor group has been targeting 40 House Republicans and has had 176 specific activities this past month. "My point is we had a plan to do well in August and all of us have," said Snyder.

But as the August recess draws to a close, the question is whether the decrease in the vocal opposition to reform and the increase in support from some House Republicans will translate into a vote in the fall. There are also questions on whether the Republican-controlled House will have time to debate and vote on immigration legislation. "Either they get it done or they get blamed for blocking it," said Frank Sharry, from the pro-immigration reform organization [America's Voice](#).

[Latino Decisions](#) political scientist Sylvia Manzano agrees.

"It's really up to them. They do have time to do this," says I think they understand that if they don't pass it it won't go away. If they fail to address it now, it will come up in 2014, 2015 or 2016."

NBC LATINO: For years, Latino Republican negotiates on immigration reform

by [Sandra Lilley](#), [@sandalilley](#)

10:10 am on 08/12/2013

While the momentum around possible immigration reform legislation in the House has focused on the last few months, one Latino Republican has been working on the issue on Capitol Hill for about a decade. Cesar Gonzalez, chief of Staff to Florida Republican [Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart](#), is one of a very small group of senior legislative aides who has been sifting through the complexity of immigration laws to try to reach agreement across the aisle. His boss, Rep. Diaz-Balart, is part of a group of 7 trying to craft bipartisan legislation in the House.

"During the last four years, we have been meeting sometimes two or three times a week, for 2 or 3 hours, and they're very intense negotiations," says Gonzalez. "It's not just writing the bill, but learning the immigration system, which is complicated. When you start to move one piece here you affect two or three other pieces," he explains.

Gonzalez says the small group's members have become experts on minute details of immigration law. "We come from different sides of the aisle – but we've become good friends," he says.

Gonzalez first worked for Rep. Diaz-Balart's brother Lincoln when he was in Congress, and was assigned to handle some immigration-related issues. He started working on agricultural workers and jobs in 2006 or 2007. This year, the agreement between the United Farm Workers and growers which became part of the Senate bill was seen as a real breakthrough and key for House negotiations.

The 38-year-old son of parents who came from Cuba, Gonzalez says he sympathizes with young immigrants, since his parents faced uncertain years when they first got to the U.S. His mother, who came through the Peter Pan program, spent time in several cities without her parents, and his father came by himself "until he ran into former neighbors who took him in."

"We can give these kids and some other immigrants a chance to flourish and succeed. We've seen how immigrants turned Miami from more of a backwater town to a cosmopolitan city. Immigrants built Miami," he says, speaking of his hometown.

When asked about an immigration bill out of the House in the fall, Gonzalez said he agreed with Illinois Democratic congressman Luis Gutierrez who said the House will be dealing with the same issues as the Senate bill, but in a different way. Gonzalez said it was a matter of how House members "thread the needle," including whether they split the legislation into different pieces.

Still, Gonzalez was optimistic when asked about the prospects of immigration reform legislation hitting President Obama's desk this fall.

"I've seen a lot of groups coming together – what we call 'Bible, badges and business' get organized this time, and it has helped us on this side of the aisle," he says, acknowledging it's been a tougher sell in his party. "Some of the outlier groups are always going to make noise; that's almost their business model."

Despite this, Gonzalez says that "in the 10 years I've been doing this, it's the closest we've come."

NEW YORK TIMES: Immigration Reform Falls to the Back of the Line

By Michael D. Shear and Julia Preston

September 8, 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/09/us/politics/immigration-reform-falls-to-the-back-of-the-line.html?pagewanted=1&r=1&hp>

WASHINGTON — Congress is likely to postpone consideration of an immigration overhaul until the end of the year, if not longer, even as advocates are preparing for an all-out, urgent push this fall to win their longstanding goal of a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants here illegally.

In Washington, the sudden debate over military action in Syria and a looming face-off with President Obama over the budget and the nation's borrowing limit have shot to the top of the legislative agenda, while Republican angst about losing Hispanic voters in the 2012 presidential campaign has faded.

In the House, where many Republicans view an overhaul bill passed by the Senate as a federal juggernaut that is too kind to immigrant lawbreakers, the legislative summer recess has done little to stoke enthusiasm for immediate action. Senior Republican aides in the House say immigration is at the back of the line, and unlikely to come up for months.

The prospect of a delay is generating frustration among supporters of the legislation, who felt emboldened by a summer in which conservative opposition in House districts largely fizzled and immigrant groups seized the chance to lobby lawmakers on their home turf.

"We believe they can walk and chew gum at the same time," said Eliseo Medina, who leads the immigration campaign for the [Service Employees International Union](#), referring to members of Congress. "The more they delay, the worse it will be for them."

Throughout August, immigration groups organized hundreds of visits to Congressional offices, town hall-style meetings, vigils, marches and rallies, creating a constant buzz in the districts of many House lawmakers, particularly Republicans. On Wednesday, advocates delivered 600,000 petitions to the West Chester, Ohio, offices of Speaker John A. Boehner the old-fashioned way, in dozens of stacks of signed papers. On Sunday, Catholic priests around the country preached for a comprehensive immigration overhaul.

At a Mass devoted to immigration in Cincinnati, a mix of Catholics, including immigrants from Mexico and Central America and African-Americans, prayed for Congress to act.

"Families in our communities are being ripped apart by deportations, and the system is in chaos," said Tony Stieritz, director of [Catholic Social Action](#) for the Cincinnati Archdiocese, who helped organize the Mass. "A vote for delay is a vote for crisis and disorder in the current system."

José Cabrera, 18, a high school senior from Mexico who spoke at the Mass, said immigrant groups in Ohio expected to see legislation this year, adding that he and other students compared their activities to the civil rights march on Washington, recently celebrated on its 50th anniversary.

"We know this is the year," said Mr. Cabrera, who came here illegally when he was 4 years old and was recently granted a deportation deferral by the Obama administration. "I have put as much effort in as I can and even more. If they just keep pushing it back and back, a lot of activists will be very frustrated." The gulf between the expectations of advocates and the reality they face in Washington is widening every day. As they feel momentum slipping away, their anger is likely to intensify this fall.

And time is not on their side. In June, the [Senate passed a bipartisan plan](#) to overhaul border security and grant illegal immigrants a chance to earn citizenship. If the House does not take up the immigration issue until 2014, members will face the prospect of voting on a highly contentious issue in the middle of a Congressional election year.

Republican primaries will begin in the spring, and many lawmakers may be reluctant to overhaul the immigration system just before facing their conservative constituents. If Congress does not complete action early next year, Congressional aides said, the issue could be delayed until after the November elections.

But leaders of groups supporting an immigration overhaul say they do not plan to let up.

The organizations plan a mobilization in early October, with rallies in at least 40 cities on Oct. 5 followed by a march and rally in Washington on Oct. 8. Convinced that a majority exists in the House for the legislation, they will press for Mr. Boehner to allow a vote before the end of the year. Leaders said the Syria debate and the fiscal fight should not become “excuses” to set aside immigration.

“We’re gearing up for late October — we’re going to push really hard for votes this fall and negotiations with the Senate,” said Frank Sharry, the executive director of [America’s Voice](#), an advocacy group. “We never figured we’d have an opportunity in September because of the budget stuff and with the [debt ceiling](#).”

The government’s authority to spend money under the existing budget will run out on Oct. 1 unless lawmakers reach a budget deal or agree to a temporary delay. And officials say the debt limit must be raised by mid-October or the nation will [risk defaulting on its debts](#).

Many immigration advocates said they were especially pleased that conservative activists and talk radio hosts had failed to generate significant opposition to an overhaul in August.

At a rally in Richmond, Va., last month that was billed as a [Tea Party](#) show of strength, Representative Steve King of Iowa, a Republican who is an outspoken foe of any legal status for illegal immigrants, found himself addressing a nearly empty plaza.

By contrast, the [Alliance for Citizenship](#), a coalition of pro-overhaul groups, said it logged nearly 1,200 events last month, from polite office visits to noisy street protests. Several dozen marchers walked from Sacramento to Bakersfield, Calif., hoping to evoke the farmworker protests of the 1960s. While few of the actions made national news, the groups kept up a drumbeat in Republican districts they identified as strategic. The alliance reported that 25 House Republicans had come out in favor of an overhaul including legalization during the recess.

Bibles, Badges and Business, a conservative coalition favoring the overhaul, dispatched representatives to more than 60 town hall-style meetings, to respond if opponents turned out in force. But Ali Noorani, a leader of the coalition, said no groundswell of rage had appeared, while support among conservatives appeared to be growing.

But that activity does not appear to have significantly altered the debate in Washington, in part because Syria is overshadowing other issues. Republican officials in the House say they will continue to consider a piece-by-piece approach to particular immigration issues in the weeks ahead. But the possibility of working out a comprehensive overhaul with the Senate and the president will have to wait, they say.

“In terms of getting anything on the floor, you’re certainly going to have to wait until something happens on the fiscal debate,” one senior Republican leadership aide said, adding that “the more contentious things you put on the schedule, the harder it is to do the thing that goes last.”

In that case, some immigration groups have signaled that they could become more aggressive. In Phoenix last month, young undocumented immigrants who call themselves Dreamers chained themselves to a fence at an immigration detention center and sat in front of a police bus carrying immigrants to be deported. Church and immigrant groups have promised fasts and protests in the coming weeks.

“We don’t control the timing. What we do control is the pressure,” said Mr. Medina, the labor leader. “They will get this done when the pressure is so great they have to act.”

THE FILIPINO REPORTER: ‘Bibles, Badges and Business’

Sunday, 18 August 2013 12:30

<http://www.filipinoreporter.us/editorials/editorial/2594-bibles-badges-and-business.html>

SIGNS abound of a probable rejection of the Obama Administration’s immigration reform bill by the Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives.

For one, majority members of the House went home to their districts for the August recess without taking appreciable action of the immigration bill (S-744) which passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support, 68-32.

President Obama, who himself leads the full-court press for the bill's passage, pointedly blames the Republican caucuses in the House for blocking the measure.

"Please take it to the floor for a vote," Obama pleaded in exasperation to the House leadership under Speaker John Boehner who, from the start, vowed that the bill will not reach the floor for a vote.

What do these Republicans want anyway?

Their colleagues in the Senate, including Hispanic Sen. Marco Antonio Rubio of Florida, have signed on to fix the shattered immigration system.

Business leaders, labor unions, churches, law enforcement officers have joined the bandwagon to support the bill.

They are sending a strong message to their legislators to get serious and take steps to right a grievous wrong when they return to Washington in September.

Here's a snapshot of meetings that lawmakers are having with their constituents across America:

Meeting with the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, Rep. Jeff Denham, a Republican from California, said, "I thought we'd get this done before the August work period. I think the Senate made tremendous progress. I thought the bipartisan vote would be enough to get the House moving forward."

Both Ohio Sen. Richard Durbin and Rep. Bill Foster described the bipartisan bill as a "compromise" and stated the comprehensive legislation must include a "tough but fair" path to citizenship.

The bill's outcome is an acid test for President Obama, who has staked his flagging reputation behind the bill.

The White House has every reason to be worried.

The other House is not budging.

How to make the case for a common sense legislation is clearly the administration's major problem.

But corporate support is mounting.

In the South just this week a panel of CEOs composed of 1,500 tech savants discussed the importance of the bill to the business community.

The panel is a part of ongoing discussion how to grow the economy and create jobs.

The confab is aptly called "Bibles, Badges and Business."

REUTERS: Quietly, businesses help reshape US immigration debate

By Andy Sullivan

August 26, 2013

<http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Opinion&title=Quietly,-businesses-help-reshape-US-immigration-debate&id=75499>

HOUSTON -- If Texas Representative Ted Poe was looking for reassurance that backing an overhaul of US immigration laws won't be political suicide for conservatives like him, he may have found it this week at a seafood restaurant on the outskirts of Houston.

During a roundtable discussion, several business executives told the five-term Republican that they can't find enough Americans willing to cook fajitas, repair sidewalks and perform other types of unglamorous work that keeps the fourth-largest US city humming. A more robust guest-worker program would help, they said. Poe told the executives he was working on a bill to tackle the problem and assured them that his fellow Republicans would help overhaul the US immigration system in the coming months.

"Just doing nothing is a vote for the status quo, which is broken," Poe said of an immigration system that has struggled to deal with the estimated 11 million undocumented residents in the US.

As lawmakers return to their home districts in the final weeks of summer, hundreds of US businesses have quietly mobilized to persuade Republicans such as Poe that an immigration overhaul is broadly supported by their constituents, even if some conservative activists loudly object.

The low-key strategy by businesses, along with a decision by several conservative lawmakers to spend the month campaigning against President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul, appears to have lowered the temperature of the immigration debate. Public "town hall" meetings held by members of Congress this month generally have not disintegrated into the raucous, racially tinged sessions on immigration that some had feared.

As a result, many involved in the effort are cautiously optimistic that one of their top priorities of the past decade could become a reality sometime in the next year and a half -- even though huge obstacles remain in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. "We're confident that this is going to get done sooner rather than later," said Glenn Hamer, president of the Arizona Chamber of Business and Industry.

Immigration reform has long been a top priority for business groups such as the US Chamber of Commerce, which say that current laws and regulations make it too difficult to find workers they can't recruit at home and expose businesses to a tangle of conflicting labor regulations.

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But the dynamics on immigration are different in the House, where many lawmakers represent uniformly conservative districts that give them little incentive to compromise. House Speaker John Boehner says his chamber won't even vote on the Senate bill. Instead, Republicans are expected to advance a series of bills that tackle the issue in pieces. A path to citizenship is a non-starter for most of the 233 Republicans in the 435-seat House, though a few have come out in support of the idea in recent weeks. The lobbying by businesses and other groups this summer has focused on urging House conservatives to pass a bill of their own that could emerge as the basis for compromise talks with the Senate.

Many Republicans are warming to a measure that would provide undocumented workers with some type of legal residency status, said Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA, a business group that organized the Poe roundtable. Those workers then could apply for citizenship through other means, she said. "Can Republicans get to that path to legal status, and can Democrats accept that? That would be the makings of a sweet spot," Jacoby said.

STATING THEIR CASE, PRIVATELY

Beyond their roundtable meetings with lawmakers, some business owners are making sure they have a presence at town hall events. After Poe's roundtable this week, Houston insurance agency owner Norm Adams planned to drive three hours to another lawmaker's public forum to ensure that opponents of an immigration overhaul weren't the only ones in the room. "Every time we have a chance, we clearly prove that they are the minority. But they're the screamers, and the loudest," Adams said.

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In Colorado, six business executives who collectively donated nearly \$500,000 to Republicans in 2012, wrote a letter to the state's four Republican House members last month urging them to support changes in immigration laws. In Arizona, where Republicans in the state legislature have enacted one of the strictest immigration laws in the country, business leaders are arguing that a hard-line stance is not the political winner it once was.

In Texas, the state's close ties with Mexico and a sizable Hispanic population have made many business leaders especially aware of the need to do something on immigration, and the state's 24 Republican House members could play a pivotal role in the coming months.

WASHINGTON POST (Nakamura Post): Chertoff warns against Obama executive action on immigration

By David Nakamura

September 10, 2013

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/09/10/chertoff-warns-against-obama-executive-action-on-immigration/>

Immigration proponents worried about the future of reform in Congress have made clear their backup plan is to ask President Obama to use his executive authority to defer deportations for 11 million undocumented immigrants.

But one leading Republican advocate for reform said that would be a "big mistake."

Former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff believes a unilateral move by the White House would further doom the chances of Congress embracing sweeping reform legislation. Chertoff, who advocated for sweeping changes to immigration law under President George W. Bush, said Obama's [election-year decision in 2012 to defer deportations](#) for immigrants brought to the country illegally as children has caused great skepticism among reform opponents.

"I understand when the decision was made not to deport the so-called 'Dreamers' it was seen as very humane. But for people skeptical and distrusting, that vindicated their skepticism," Chertoff said during an immigration forum in Raleigh, N.C., co-sponsored by a pro-reform group called Bibles, Badges and Business and the North Carolina Farm Bureau.

Chertoff said that for opponents of reform to embrace a comprehensive bill, they must be convinced that the government will uphold all elements of any new law, including additional border security and workplace screening.

"They think, 'Well, great, we pass immigration reform, then once people are legalized, the president will waive all the requirements of border security and not enforce them,'" Chertoff said. That fear "really lurks behind the argument against this" immigration reform proposal.

Since Obama announced his deferred deportation program for younger immigrants a year ago, his administration has waived deportation proceedings for [more than 400,000 people](#). Some Republicans, including Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), have said that the president is likely to [expand that program](#) if immigration reform fails.

But Chertoff said he was in a meeting with Obama a few years ago when the subject of deferred deportations came up. According to Chertoff, Obama said: "I can't do that unilaterally because we have to enforce the law."

"That was the right answer," Chertoff said.

Chertoff helped spearhead Bush's unsuccessful immigration push in 2007, when a bipartisan proposal failed to advance out of the Senate. He has since been [supportive of Obama's push](#) for reform.

This year, the Senate approved a comprehensive bill that includes a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants, but the GOP-controlled House has refused to vote on the measure. Leaders have said they will instead pursue a piecemeal approach focused on border security, which is unlikely to include a chance at citizenship for the immigrants.

Chertoff acknowledged that the prospects of immigration reform have dimmed recently as Congress's legislative window has grown more limited because of the debate over Syria, and looming battles over the budget and the debt ceiling.

"The other danger in this is that in the course of addressing these issues, so much bad blood is generated that their ability to work together and that trust erodes," he said. "The public has to send a message to members of Congress that they are paid to accomplish things. That does not mean you get everything you want and the other guy doesn't get anything."

WASHINGTON POST: Here's what it looks like when a conservative Republican wants immigration reform

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2013/08/22/heres-what-it-looks-like-when-a-conservative-republican-wants-immigration-reform/>

By [Greg Sargent](#), Published: August 22 at 12:02 pm [E-mail the writer](#)

For some time now, the House conservative posture on immigration reform has been largely defined by GOP Reps. Bob Goodlatte and Steve King. Goodlatte has given voice to the widespread GOP desire to stall reform by addressing it in pieces. King has amplified the raw nativism below the surface of opposition to reform for some — though by no means most — on the right. Fair or not, King has helped tar the GOP among Latinos with an image the party wants to shake.

So it's worth taking note when a conservative House Republican makes the case for comprehensive immigration reform on humanitarian grounds.

GOP Rep. John Carter of Texas is a member of the House gang of seven, which is [set to unveil a compromise this year](#) with citizenship and strict conditions. He is a border state [conservative](#) who [opposed reform](#) last time. And in a [press conference that was reported on by the Kildeen Daily Herald](#), he made this case:

"Part of what's wrong with our immigration system is that we keep trying to patch it up," Carter said. "We need comprehensive reform."

Reform includes taking into account the needs of business owners, especially in the technology industry, where many companies hire employees from overseas to fill the sector's jobs. [...]

Reform also includes tackling the difficult problem of just what to do with the nation's millions of undocumented immigrants. Carter said part of the group's reforms would ask them to admit they entered the country without proper documentation.

"We don't want to reward bad behavior," Carter said. "They are going to have to admit that they've come here illegally." [...]

Carter also called for compassion for those the policy will impact, pointing to the presence of local religious leaders present at the meeting Monday

"The evangelical community wants to remind people that we are dealing with human beings with families," Carter said. "They should be treated with respect and compassion."

Dems see in these comments a way that conservative Republicans — if they wanted to, of course — could counter-program the likes of Goodlatte and King. Unlike Goodlatte and his call for piecemeal reform, Carter describes the problem as a multi-faceted one that must be addressed with multiple solutions, rather than just "patching it up." Unlike King, Carter humanizes the issue by allowing that what do do about the 11 million is about "families." Nor does he doesn't see this as being contradicted by his insistence that they will have to admit wrongdoing — a rebuff to the right's screams of "amnesty."

Dems take note when other Republicans are willing to address the issue in human terms, such as Rep. Trey Gowdy, who [has said](#): "Peoples' desire to improve their lives resonates with me, no matter where they're from." Along these lines, Conservative bishops and priests are [ramping up efforts](#) to preach the humanitarian virtues of reform, in hopes House Republicans are listening.

Meanwhile, the invocation of an economic rationale dovetails with [reformers' hopes](#) that agriculture and high tech interests will ask their Republican Congressmen to support reform for the good of their local economies.

There are no indications Carter — one of the gang of seven Republicans on the who [initially sought](#) to keep work on reform quiet to avoid blowback — is facing instant political destruction over his advocacy.

None of this is to say Carter's pitch makes it any more likely House Republicans will pass anything comprehensive. But his language is another reminder that they could find their way to supporting comprehensive reform if they wanted to.

Arizona

Glendale Star: Local leaders push for action on immigration reform

By DARRELL JACKSON, Staff Writer | 0 comments

Local religious, business and law enforcement leaders met Aug. 6 at the Glendale Chamber of Commerce to discuss immigration reform and urge leaders to support the immigration bill that has passed the Senate.

Representatives from the offices of Congressmen Trent Franks and David Schweikert were in attendance at the meeting.

"The point of today was to discuss immigration reform with representatives of Congressmen Franks and Schweikert to see where they stand on this issue," said Adam Estle, executive director of Lifebridge Community Alliance. "We wanted to show the congressmen where Bibles, Badges and Business (BBB) are coming from on this issue."

BBB is a national coalition of faith, law enforcement and business leaders working together to forge a new consensus on immigrants and America. It is also a member of the National Immigration and Action Fund.

"We are obviously in favor of comprehensive immigration reform, and the coalition is on the same page in favor of that," Estle said.

The immigration bill that passed in the Senate would allow any undocumented immigrant who arrived in the United States prior to Dec. 31, 2011 and who hasn't committed a felony (or three misdemeanors), holds a job and pays a \$500 fine and back taxes to immediately gain the status of "registered provisional."

After six years, they would have to renew the status, which is dependent on maintaining a steady work history, having a clean criminal record, and paying another \$500 fine. Four years later they could apply for permanent residency (green card).

"It is a tipping point moment as more people are rallying around this issue," said Pastor Gary Kinnaman of World of Grace Church of Phoenix. "The Senate bill that passed will make everyone that wants to become citizens who haven't started the process; they will have to wait in line behind those already in the system."

There are a reported 11 to 15 million undocumented workers in the country, based on a study by the Center for Immigration Studies done in 2008.

“These people live in the shadows in our country, and the Bible asks us to welcome a stranger, and they definitely qualify as that in our society,” said Estle. “For us it is about the people first and foremost, about immigrants and not immigration.”

A report in 2010 by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) put the cost of accommodating immigrants in the US at near \$113 billion per year – an average of \$1,117 for every household in America.

“No matter which way you go on the subject, there are costs,” said Kinnaman. “The cost of deporting (11-15 million people) would be astronomical. There are costs for everything and that is the challenge of government to find the money to do the things that are most important.”

Opponents to the report by FAIR point out that it is estimated that undocumented workers add \$245 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) to the economy and account for 2.8 million jobs.

“Most undocumented workers pay taxes, but they have false identities – not to steal anyone’s identity but just to work – but they garner no benefits from those taxes,” Kinnaman said. “Right now the system is so complicated and so expensive that everybody needs a shorter cut to citizenship.”

The main exception in the bill is that those undocumented who entered illegally before the age of 16, graduated high school, and have been in the United States for at least five years – they would have a quicker path by applying for citizenship after five years.

Participants in the meeting wanted to make sure that while they want immigration reform, they are not looking for just open borders.

“We would like to see a secure border, but also laws that protect migrant labor, e-verify and some path for citizenship,” said Kinnaman.

While the leaders highlighted the importance of immigration for the congressmen’s representatives, they know that they and their constituencies will support lawmakers who act on immigration reform.

“It was a positive meeting and civil discussion and everyone got a chance to express their views,” Estle said. “This is a human issue and that is the big point for us.”

Joe Sigg, government relations director at the Arizona Farm Bureau, summed up the meeting.

“Immigration reform is a vital issue for Arizona agriculture,” Sigg said. “As well, respect for law and recognition of a truly broken system demands that we fix this issue in a complete and comprehensive manner. I respect the diversity around this table and am hopeful efforts such as this will lead to meaningful reform. This is an issue that is as large as it is local.”

PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL: Obama to talk housing in Phoenix, but immigration issues loom

[Mike Sunnucks](#)

Senior Reporter- *Phoenix Business Journal*

<http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/blog/business/2013/08/obama-to-talk-housing-in-phoenix-but.html>

President [Barack Obama](#) will be in Phoenix today to talk about housing and homeownership at an invitation-only event. But he will also be greeted by the immigration issue — and some criticism — during his stopover in Phoenix and housing speech in Ahwatukee.

Activist group Puente Arizona will be outside Desert Vista High School today pressing Obama to push harder for immigration reforms and against Maricopa County Sheriff [Joe Arpaio](#) and his immigration raids.

Puente Arizona is also upset with the deportation of 1.7 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. since Obama took office in 2009.

“He’s been able to hide behind promises of future reform while deporting our families in the present. Arizona immigrants won’t continue to be pawns in that game or actors in that charade,” said Puente organizer [Carlos Garcia](#).

Immigration reforms have passed the U.S. Senate but are stalled right now in the Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives.

Arizona business and religious leaders in favor of reforms are also holding an event today Glendale advocating for federal action, including more foreign worker visas and the legalization of many of the 11 million unauthorized immigrants already in the country.

A group called the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network is sponsoring the event and discussion. It features executives from the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), Arizona Farm Bureau, Western Growers Association, Glendale Chamber of Commerce as well as some Christian groups in favor reforms.

Arizona Republican senators [John McCain](#) and [Jeff Flake](#) were sponsors of the business-backed immigration bill that passed the Democratic-controlled Senate. But the measure faces resistance from conservative Republicans in the House.

YUMA SUN: Senate immigration reform bill ‘step in right direction’

August 03, 2013 10:28 PM

<http://www.yumasun.com/articles/workers-88979-farm-immigration.html#ixzz2bJlJ9vs>

Each year one of the questions that Yuma's produce growers struggle with is whether they will have the workers they need to bring their fresh vegetables from the field to market.

It's a “\$64,000 question,” given the vulnerability of their crops and their high value. And it's one that is spurring increasing interest in the development of mechanization to replace some of the human hands now needed to nurture and harvest the lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower and other vegetables grown here that has earned Yuma the title of Winter Produce Capital of the World.

It's also led to long-standing pleas from local farmers for reform to the nation's guest worker program, a program they maintain is broken. Nor does it meet the needs of the border area where many workers would rather cross the border each day to work in the fields and return home at night, they say.

At the same time, this is one of the most heavily enforced areas in the country when it comes to the legality of the thousands of workers the agriculture industry relies on, observed John Boelts, a produce farmer in the Yuma area and former president of the Yuma County Farm Bureau.

But it's not just Yuma County farmers who struggle to fill the crews they need. It's happening in other states with a wide range of crops that rely heavily on labor, crops that sometimes have been left in the field for lack of adequate workers, Boelts said.

“There are some glaring issues for agriculture,” he said. “Congress should have addressed them years ago.”

That's why, while he thinks the immigration reform bill the U.S. Senate passed June 27 is flawed, he also believes that “something out of Congress is better than nothing. It's a step in the right direction.”

The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, or SB 744, is a broad-based proposal for reforming the U.S. immigration system written by a bipartisan group of eight senators known as the “Gang of Eight.” They include Arizona Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, both Republican, as well as Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.).

The bill addresses all aspects of the immigration process from border and enforcement issues to legal immigration reforms. It makes changes to the family and employment-based visa categories for immigrants, provides critical due-process protections, increases the availability of nonimmigrant workers to supplement all sectors of the workforce, and provides legal status to 11 million undocumented immigrants within the United States.

A key provision for agriculture offers a pathway to legal status for undocumented farm workers — conservative estimates suggest that could apply to roughly 60 percent of the noncitizen farm workforce, according to a White House report.

In addition, the bill would create a new temporary-worker program that was negotiated by major organizations representing farmers and farm workers.

According to the White House document, the bill not only would ensure a more stable agriculture work force, it also would provide strong worker protections and boost their incomes and productivity, thus protecting the nation's food production industry and contributing to the economic health of rural communities.

Boelts said workers now earn anywhere from minimum wage to \$20 an hour or more. Some in management positions may earn \$50,000 or more a year. And agriculture is one industry where language isn't a barrier, he noted.

“The Senate's passage of an immigration reform bill that includes a fair and workable farm labor provision was a long time in coming but is welcomed,” Arizona Farm Bureau President Kevin Rogers said at the time the Senate passed SB 744. “Of most importance to us is an agricultural labor component that works for agriculture and helps secure the border.”

Rogers added that “we believe that one of the best ways to improve border security is to create a legal, reliable way for needed farm workers to enter our country.”

The measure now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration when Congress reconvenes in September after its August break.

“We respect the House has a different process,” said Joe Sigg, lobbyist for the Arizona Farm Bureau. “There's a lot of discussion ... we have a long ways to go.”

For one thing, he said, the issue of a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers is “problematic” in the House.

However, he said, “we remain hopeful and we will be talking to Arizona's House members during the break. We've worked years for reform. This is the closest we've been, and we're certainly not going to let up. It's too important to agriculture.”

California

CAPITAL PRESS: Vilsack, others push for immigration reform

By [TIM HEARDEN](#)

Capital Press

<http://www.capitalpress.com/content/TH-Immigration-Vilsack-w-art>

SACRAMENTO — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack echoed a coalition of business and faith leaders who argued that passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill would bolster California's economy, particularly as it relates to agriculture.

In separate, back-to-back teleconferences with reporters Aug. 28, Vilsack and members of the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network — including a California Farm Bureau Federation representative — urged voters to press the state's congressional delegation to pass a reform package this fall.

Vilsack touted a White House report that asserts the worker shortage in California agriculture could cost as much as \$2.12 billion in short-term production losses, a significant portion of the state's \$33.9 billion industry.

"I think everyone in California understands that we have a broken system, and I think everyone understands the need for a comprehensive fix to that system," Vilsack said. "The sad reality today in American agriculture ... is that growers and producers are making decisions not to grow as much, not to harvest as much as they can grow or to move their operations outside of the United States because they do not have the security and stability of a work force."

Vilsack advocated a reform package like the one that passed the Senate in June, which included a pathway to citizenship for the nation's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants. Under that bill, those immigrants would pay a fine and wait 13 years before they're eligible to apply for citizenship but could attain legal residency to continue working in agriculture. The legislation would also require the immigrants to learn English.

Immigration reform has since stalled in the GOP-led House of Representatives, where leaders have said they'll proceed with single-issue bills instead, beginning with border security. Vilsack argued that border security measures should be "complemented" by "A simplified, workable guest-worker program," adding the Senate version calls for the program to be partly managed by the USDA.

"While we secure the border ... we also don't want to lock those who are in this country in a permanent status of being in a shadow economy," the secretary said. "We want them to come out of the shadows."

Vilsack's pitch came as advocates nationwide have sought to use Congress' five-week summer recess to build momentum to persuade House Republicans to act this fall on sweeping immigration measures. In mid-August, hundreds of activists rallied for immigration reform at the Bakersfield, Calif., district office of House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, the third-ranking House Republican.

Vilsack noted the push for reform has brought together disparate groups such as labor unions and business leaders, agribusiness and the United Farm Workers, and evangelicals and liberal interest groups.

Among those coalitions is Bibles, Badges and Business, a national network of faith, law enforcement and industry representatives pushing for reform. Speakers during the group's Aug. 28 conference call

represented the Latin Business Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, the state Farm Bureau and a church in Solana Beach, Calif.

"We are at a critical time for immigration reform," said moderator Beneva Schulte, executive director of inSPIRE STEM USA, an immigration and work force development advocacy group.

"The House of Representatives is in its August recess ... We are using this time period to let members of Congress hear our voices back in their districts."

Rayne Pegg, the CFBF's federal policy manager, said California growers typically rely on a labor force of 400,000 but have been reporting a shortage of up to 30 percent. She said some farms have had to downsize or move their operations.

"We really have to be honest about the issue here and the practicality of deporting 11 million people," Pegg said. "Farmers and immigrants have worked together for decades to produce the food that's on your table ... If we can employ more people on farms in California, it has a ripple effect on related businesses."

"Doing nothing is just going to maintain a de facto amnesty program," she said. "It does nothing to address the problems we are facing."

Colorado

BURNT ORANGE REPORT: DREAMers And CIR Advocates Clash With Farenthold's Racist Anti-Immigration Campaign Supporters

by: Omar Araiza

Thu Aug 08, 2013 at 03:00 PM CDT

<http://www.burntorangereport.com/diary/13916/dreamers-and-cir-advocates-clash-with-farentholds-racist-antiimmigration-campaign-supporters>

Close to 50 immigration reform activists from TexasRITA, LULAC, Mi Familia Vota and other groups gathered this week at U.S. Congressman Blake Farenthold's (R-TX) Corpus Christi office to deliver 10,000 petitions asking for the Congressman's support of immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship.

Congressman Farenthold is a perfect embodiment of the challenge the House GOP face concerning immigration.

Farenthold is among the House Republicans who have expressed some openness to an immigration overhaul. He represents a district with a significant population of Hispanics -- at 49.5% -- but has been reluctant to support providing a path to full citizenship, the core piece of the Senate bill passed earlier this summer.

His voting base has said "no to the Senate bill and no amnesty," Farenthold stated in an earlier town meeting last month. But added saying, "Where the lines of amnesty are have not been sorted out in the American psyche."

Farenthold went on the offensive this time, tweeting and asking his followers to show up at his office to stand with him against immigration reform.

The morning of the rally, immigration reform activists were met with an anti-immigration crowd that shouted and used intimidation tactics to dissuade the group, asking them if they were illegals.

Both sides met face to face in Corpus.

The anti-immigration group were supporters of Farenthold's re-election campaign. They were summoned by a tweet to show up and "support Congressman Farenthold's stance on immigration reform."

Miguel Porfirio, a DREAMer and DACA recipient, who led the petition delivery said, "Why is Congressman Farenthold afraid of our families, of our stories? Why did he feel like he had to turn out a group of his supporters to scare us? Why is he afraid of the 10,000 constituents who signed the petition? We came to deliver that petition and talk about immigration reform in a positive way. We expect the same respect and dialogue that the Congressman would offer to any of his other constituents."

These kinds of protests are being seen all throughout the country.

In Utah, organization of leaders and local church officials took part in an immigration reform meeting on Tuesday to discuss a pathway to citizenship and urge U.S. Representatives Jim Matheson and Rob Bishop to act in favor of a humane immigration reform.

Five dozen immigration rights activists picketed outside Rep. Frank R. Wolf's Herndon office on Wednesday, demanding he vote for a bill that would include citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the country.

Cars were said to have slowed as people stared at a crowd of protesters clothed in white brandishing American flags and protest signs marching through the streets of Asheboro, North Carolina on Wednesday demanding that U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers support comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship.

Protests are being held this week in New Jersey aimed at gaining support for immigration reform from three Republican congressmen -- U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance, U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, and U.S. Rep. Chris Smith. Immigration advocates hope to convince the congressmen to vote for the immigration reform bill that passed in the U.S. Senate.

Top Colorado faith, law enforcement, business and agriculture leaders gathered today for a Congressional District 4 Immigration Roundtable. The meeting was sponsored by Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network and the Partnership for a New American Economy as a part of the #BBBwinsAugust campaign, which highlights the support for broad reform in Colorado and urges the state's congressional delegation to vote in favor of commonsense immigration reform.

Over 500 people gathered outside Speaker John Boehner's Springfield Office late last month to ask Boehner and other House of Representative Leaders to call for up a vote on comprehensive immigration reform.

Farenthold defeated longtime Democratic incumbent, Solomon Ortiz, by only 800 votes during the 2010 Tea Party wave. At that time, the district stretched down from Corpus Christi to Brownsville, and Hispanics made up more than 70 percent of the population. Thanks to redistricting, he now sits at a much safer conservative seat.

Yet this safety may not be for long, and the same can be said for any Republican that opposed immigration reform.

People all over the country -- undocumented immigrants and U.S. citizens alike -- are rising up to demand passage of immigration reform. No matter how hard they try to avoid discussing citizenship,

the GOP-controlled House will be forced to act on this pressing issue. When, and not if, seems to be the real question.

House Republicans are in a tough position.

The 2014 midterm elections are coming up. If Congress passes immigration reform this year, Republicans will be forced to answer to constituents that want nothing to do with "amnesty," and potentially even face defeat by more radical primary challengers.

If they don't act now, the voices that demand immigration reform will only continue to grow stronger and further united against those that oppose reform.

It's only a matter of time that we see Republicans lose control of the House. And at this rate, it's only a matter of time that we see Republicans lose complete control of their party.

CBS 5 (COLORADO): Colorado Leaders to Urge House Action on Immigration Reform-Greeley

Posted: Aug 07, 2013 12:35 PM EST Updated: Aug 07, 2013 1:27 PM EST

<http://www.noco5.com/story/23072787/colorado-leaders-to-urge-house-action-on-immigration-reform-greeley>

GREELEY, Colo.—During a crucial August recess for the House of Representatives, top Colorado faith, law enforcement, business and agriculture leaders will gather for a Congressional District 4 Immigration Roundtable.

These leaders will meet Thursday for a discussion sponsored by [Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform](#) Network and the [Partnership for a New American Economy](#) as a part of the [#BBBwinsAugust](#) campaign, which will highlight the support for broad reform in Colorado and urge the state's congressional delegation to vote "yes" on commonsense immigration reform. The event is one of dozens across the country this month featuring local leaders from across the political spectrum.

With members of Congress listening to their constituents about how to proceed on immigration in Colorado and nationwide, Bibles, Badges and Business leaders are saying in a clear and unified voice that Congress must keep broad immigration reform moving when it returns to Washington. The meeting will be at the Colorado Livestock Association 822 7th St. #210 Greeley, CO 80631 from 2-3 p.m.

GREELEY TRIBUNE: Weaver: It's time for immigration reform to strengthen families, economy

August 10, 2013

Weaver op-ed

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/news/opinion/7666994-113/reform-immigration-economy-broad>

As an evangelical Christian, a businessman and a citizen, I see that the time is now for broad immigration reform that will strengthen our families and our economy.

While Congress is home for its August recess, faith, business and other leaders in northern Colorado and throughout the nation are letting our congressional representatives know that immigration reform is urgent. On Thursday in Greeley, Bibles, Badges and Business leaders gathered to support broad reform that will fix our broken system and move all of us forward.

As an evangelical Christian, I found myself reading the Bible and seeing a completely different picture on how we should treat immigrants than I had before. We need a process that respects the God-given dignity of every human being and that promotes family unity.

I used to be fairly vocal about wanting a big fence and an emphasis on deportation. But, through scripture and prayer, I have concluded not only that my views were inconsistent with my faith, but that our current immigration laws are unjust and do not reflect our values. We can do better than just demand enforcement of the “rule of law.” We can change unjust laws — and we should. We have before.

At the same time reform celebrates biblical values, it can also move us forward economically. Bipartisan, common sense reform will help our economy and our communities in northern Colorado.

As a business leader and 30-year HR veteran, I’ve known for a long time that our immigration system was broken. I have dealt with just about every type of visa you can think of. And yet, I’ve worked with businesses that struggle to find the talent they need for specific advanced skills — and others that can’t find people to do the manual jobs so necessary for their operation and the economy.

Our state’s booming startup community and our agriculture, construction and landscape sectors are dependent on immigrants, and we need reform for these sectors to prosper fully. Reform will help grow our economy because our immigrant population comprises workers and consumers, producers and buyers, entrepreneurs and innovators.

Simply put, immigrants are a key part of our economy, here and nationwide.

We need broad reform that emphasizes accountability, including an opportunity for aspiring Americans to legalize and work toward eventual citizenship — a tough but fair road map, not a special path. Voters across the political spectrum agree that we need broad reform, including 73 percent who support the opportunity for earned citizenship, according to a [poll](#) in late-July.

Thursday’s event here was just one of dozens across the country this month at which leaders are supporting members of Congress who will work for broad, bipartisan reform. Rep. Cory Gardner and his colleagues are hearing from us that the House must continue to move forward after it returns to Washington in September. Before he goes back, I am hoping Gardner will accept my invitation to meet with pastors and leaders from throughout the district face-to-face.

The immigrant story is a story that belongs to nearly all of us. We are a country built on the values of human dignity, hard work and freedom, and we owe it to ourselves to build an immigration process that embraces these values — no matter what you look like or where you were born.

Mark Weaver founded Open Door HR Solutions, LLC, a member of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce, in 2009. He has been a worship leader for many years and is also a part of SouthGate Church in Fort Collins, and he is active in the [Evangelical Immigration Table](#) in Colorado.

WESTERN GROWERS: WG Members Participate in Immigration Discussion in Colorado
Western Growers (blog)

8/8/13

<http://www.wga.com/blog/2013/08/08/wg-members-participate-immigration-discussion-colorado>

Today in Greeley Colo., leaders from the faith, business and law enforcement communities met with the office of Rep. Cory Gardner to urge the Congressman to act on immigration reform legislation. The meeting was moderated by WG Senior Director of Government Affairs Ken Barbic and included several WG members: Bob Sakata of Sakata Farms, David Petrocco of Petrocco Farms, and Glenn Hirakata of Hirakata Farms. The WG contingent stressed the needs of agriculture in immigration reform.

This is one of many events that are being held throughout the country during the August recess of Congress designed to encourage individual members to pass immigration reform when they get back to work. Look for an event in your area and please participate.

NEWS CHANNEL 5: Colo. Faith Leaders Discuss Immigration Reform

by KREX News Room
by Amanda Brandeis

<http://www.krextv.com/news/around-the-region/Colo-Faith-Leaders-Discuss-Immigration-Reform--219495201.html>

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. Colorado faith leaders gathered in Grand Junction on Tuesday, as part of their immigration reform efforts. Throughout the month they will reach out to Colorado lawmakers in support of broad immigration reform.

They want to unite both parties in the effort by starting discussions about the issue in churches statewide.

At Tuesday's gathering leaders discussed what the Bible has to say about immigration.

Michelle Warren, Colorado immigration specialist for the Christian Community Development Association, said, "The Bible has a lot to say in the both the Old and New Testament, a lot to say, about immigration. And just bringing that conversation to churches is imperative, especially as the immigration conversation in American continues to intensify in the coming months."

Leaders are focusing on the month of August to reach out to lawmakers because they're in a recess. It is part of their Pray4Reform effort.

THE FORT MORGAN TIMES: Courage, bi-partisanship needed for immigration reform

By Chris Kraft and Don Shawcroft
August 16, 2013

http://www.fortmorgantimes.com/fort-morgan-news/ci_23876045/courage-bi-partisanship-needed-immigration-reform?source=rss

\$46 billion in new border security spending. 700 miles of fencing. Nearly 20,000 additional border security agents. Requiring all employers, and yes, that includes every farmer and rancher in the country, to use the federal E-Verify program to verify their workers' legal status. Federal deficit reduction of \$197 billion in the first decade after enactment and an additional \$700 billion in deficit reduction in the second decade. That adds up to nearly a trillion dollars of deficit reduction in the first 20 years.

The U.S. border is more secure today than it has ever been in the history of our country. We are deporting more illegal immigrants than ever before. And the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office says illegal immigration is now net-zero.

All of this and yet the U.S. House of Representatives continues to drag its feet on passing comprehensive immigration reform.

For generations our nation's agriculture industry has relied on foreign labor to bring in our crops. Yet, when the best opportunity in a generation is upon us to accomplish reform, real reform, of our broken immigration system, some of our elected representatives would rather make headlines claiming that simply throwing more money at the border is the sure answer.

In fact, the piecemeal approach to our immigration laws is exactly what has led to the problems we face today.

We wholeheartedly agree we need our borders to be secure. But talking only about border security isn't telling the whole story. We all know our entire immigration system needs an overhaul from top to bottom.

Many things have been said about what the U.S. Senate's comprehensive immigration bill provides or does not provide. It does not grant amnesty. What it does provide is a process which individuals can follow to work toward legal status, maybe even citizenship someday.

Just as America's farmers and ranchers and our rural neighbors profess to own the patent on family values, a strong work ethic, and good common sense, we must not ignore that many of our values are the same values that are instilled in those who want to come to our country. To find a better way of life. To make a living. To provide for their children.

Agriculture is one of the largest contributors to our state's economy, generating more than \$40 billion in economic activity annually. Of all the major sectors of the national economy, agriculture is the most dependent on migrant labor. Fixing our country's broken immigration system will provide the industry with a stable, reliable work force, increasing productivity and ensuring we are able to meet the demand of consumers across America and around the globe.

We call on all of our House members to get to work. Find a solution. And, yes, that might even call for some compromise.

The U.S. Senate has already done its work to find a solution and we support the bi-partisan bill it passed earlier this summer. Hopefully the House of Representatives will show the same courage, the same bi-partisanship, and the same leadership.

Chris Kraft is the Chairman of the Board of the Colorado Dairy Farmers. Don Shawcroft is the President of the Colorado Farm Bureau.

THE DAILY SENTINEL (GRAND JUNCTION): House should pass much-needed immigration reform

By Guest Columnist

August 18, 2013

<http://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/articles/house-should-pass-muchneeded-immigration-reform>

Consider these facts: \$46 billion in new border security spending. 700 miles of fencing. Nearly 20,000 additional border security agents. Requiring all employers, and yes, that includes every farmer and rancher in the country, to use the federal E-Verify program to verify their workers' legal status.

Additionally, there is federal deficit reduction of \$197 billion in the first decade after enactment followed by an additional \$700 billion in deficit reduction in the second decade. That adds up to nearly a trillion dollars of deficit reduction in the first 20 years.

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For generations our nation's agriculture industry has relied on foreign labor to help bring in our crops. However, when the best opportunity in a generation is upon us to accomplish reform — real reform — of our broken immigration system, some of our elected representatives would rather make headlines by claiming that simply throwing more money at the border is the sure answer.

In fact, the piecemeal approach to our immigration laws is exactly what has led to the problems we face today.

We wholeheartedly agree we need our borders to be secure. But talking only about border security isn't telling the whole story. We all know our entire immigration system needs an overhaul from top to bottom.

Many things have been written and said about what the Senate's comprehensive immigration bill provides or does not provide. It does not grant amnesty.

What it does provide is a process which individuals can follow to work toward legal status, maybe even citizenship someday.

Just as America's farmers and ranchers and our rural neighbors profess to own the patent on family values, a strong work ethic and good common sense, we must not ignore the fact that many of our values are the same values that are instilled in those people who want to come to our country: They come here to find a better way of life, to make a living and to provide for their children.

Agriculture is one of the largest contributors to our state's economy, generating more than \$40 billion in economic activity annually.

Of all the major sectors of the national economy, agriculture is the most dependent on migrant labor. Fixing our country's broken immigration system will provide the industry with a stable, reliable work force, increasing productivity and ensuring we are able to meet the demand of consumers across America and around the globe.

We call on all of our House members to get to work. Find a solution. And, yes, that might even call for some compromise.

The Senate has already done its work to find a solution, and we support the bipartisan bill it passed earlier this summer. We hope the House of Representatives will show the same courage, the same bipartisanship and the same leadership.

Chris Kraft is chairman of the board of Colorado Dairy Farmers. Don Shawcroft is the president of the Colorado Farm Bureau.

Georgia

COOSA VALLEY NEWS: Georgia Leaders Push for Immigration Reform

Tony Potts

<http://www.coosavalleynews.com/np103690.htm>

With Republican Congressman Tom Graves (GA-14) back in his district over the August recess, prominent Georgia leaders came together Thursday to voice their support for broad, commonsense immigration reform. During a roundtable discussion hosted by the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network, local leaders in the faith, law enforcement and business communities added their voices to the nationwide call for just immigration reform that acknowledges the dignity of each person, respects the rule of law and addresses the needs of the American economy.

At the roundtable, these leaders highlighted the importance of immigration to Georgia's 14th Congressional District and let Congressman Graves know that they will be looking for action after Congress returns to Washington in September.

This event builds on the momentum of Bibles, Badges and Business leaders who have been gathering across the country to show their members of Congress that they and their constituencies will support courageous lawmakers who act on broad immigration reform.

Jerry Gonzalez, Executive Director, Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO): `Since 2008, Georgia's Latino electorate added over 37,975 new Latino voters, who now make up 3 percent of Georgia's electorate. Enacting commonsense immigration reform is good politics and is good for the economy

HISPANIC BUSINESS: Georgia Businesses Push Congress for Immigration Changes August 12, 2013

[http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2013/8/12/georgia_businesses_push_congress_for_immigration.h
tm](http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2013/8/12/georgia_businesses_push_congress_for_immigration.htm)

Georgia business leaders are diving into the thorny debate on overhauling the nation's immigration laws, seeking to push Congress to act as soon it emerges from its summer recess next month.

Dozens of corporate executives, farmers and other businessmen have descended on Capitol Hill this year, pressing their cases for changing foreign-worker laws.

While some businessmen have been more specific than others on what they want, they are trying to build collective momentum. But prospects for the passage of comprehensive immigration legislation are uncertain, given the clashing visions in the Democratic-led U.S. Senate and Republican-run House.

Businesses routinely lobby Congress through trade associations and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which wields outsized influence in Washington. But this push, with many individual businesses across multiple industries stepping forward, is rare.

The growing pressure from business interests could create a politically tricky situation for Republican congressmen. Businesses carry strong influence with lawmakers. At the same time, GOP congressmen don't want to alienate primary supporters, many of whom oppose loosening immigration laws.

A national campaign called Bibles, Badges and Business is preparing to turn up the heat this month with a series of roundtable discussions and other events planned across the nation and in Georgia. The campaign supports foreign-worker visa programs and is pressing Congress for a solution that brings illegal immigrants "out of the shadows, stabilizes the workforce, and allows all Americans to compete for jobs on a level playing field."

And just last week the Georgia Chamber of Commerce joined more than 400 business groups and employers nationwide -- including Facebook, Google and Microsoft -- in sending a letter to Congress in support of immigration-overhaul legislation. They said fixing the badly broken system would boost the economy, though they didn't specify legislation they want passed.

Meanwhile, groups that oppose much of what Congress is debating are mobilizing. For example, members of Numbers USA, which supports reducing immigration, plan to attend congressional town hall meetings this month, to "shame" any businessmen who say they need to hire foreign workers, and to chant "Raise the pay."

The flurry of activity comes amid Congress' five-week summer recess, when lawmakers typically gather with constituents in town hall meetings. They left Washington this month, as the omnibus Senate immigration legislation was stalled in the House.

The Senate bill -- favored by many Georgia business groups -- would make it easier to hire foreign workers and would provide a path to citizenship for immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. Calling that "amnesty," House Republicans won't take up the Senate bill. They are considering several smaller bills instead, some focused on border security and immigration enforcement. One would make it easier to hire more foreign workers, though that legislation has yet to make it to the House floor.

So far, Georgia's business lobby is batting 0-for-1. In June, Georgia's two senators, Republicans Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss, voted against the Senate bill. Chambliss said the agriculture part was flawed, and both said there were not enough assurances about border security.

WYAY All News 106.7 – Atlanta – Interview with Karen Bremer, GA Restaurant Association

Radio Interview Ran August 15, 2013

TELEMUNDO ATLANTA: Interview with Charles Kuck and coverage of the event

http://www.telemundoatlanta.com/3037_videos/2173140_video-noticias-destacadas-08-15-13.html

Illinois

THE CATHOLIC POST: Safeguard human dignity when reforming immigration: Fr. Lee

By Tom Dermody

<http://www.thecatholicpost.com/post/PostArticle.aspx?ID=3021>

BLOOMINGTON -- The 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States are tagged with labels ranging from “needed laborers” to “illegal aliens,” but Father Tony Lee urges that they first be seen as people with human dignity equal to all.

“They have families and relationships,” said Father Lee, the newly appointed pastor of Holy Trinity and Historic St. Patrick parishes in Bloomington who also has pastoral care of the John Paul II Catholic Newman Center. “They are cousins and brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles.”

Father Lee was recently named a co-director of the Diocese of Peoria’s Social Action Board, sharing that role with Msgr. Doug Hennessy and succeeding Father Richard Bresnahan. On Aug. 7, he was one of four panelists at a discussion hosted by the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition at the McLean County Chamber of Commerce offices in Bloomington on the theme “Moving Us Forward: Illinois Voices for Immigration Reform.”

The U.S. Senate passed a massive reform bill on June 27. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are continuing their debate on the topic, with many hearing from their constituents this month while on summer recess.

The last major immigration reform legislation was passed in 1986.

SAFEGUARD HUMAN DIGNITY

“Often we look at numbers and statistics and forget these are people,” Father Lee told an audience Wednesday comprised of political, business, social service, religious, and media representatives. He said the extent of family relationships involved became very evident to him during six months of parish work in the Arizona border community of Douglas in 2010 and later while serving the Hispanic community in the Kewanee region when pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Atkinson.

Noting that he was in Douglas when nearby Arizona rancher Robert Krentz was murdered -- sparking increased public support for an aggressive state bill aimed at combating illegal immigration, signed into law by Gov. Jan Brewer within a month of the killing -- Father Lee recalled “I was right there at ‘ground zero’ when it became a real public issue.”

Father Lee repeatedly told the forum that the Catholic Church respects the rule of law and the “sovereign right” of nations to protect their borders. Key issues from the faith perspective, however, are safeguarding human dignity, respecting human rights, and teaching that all people are children of God to be seen “not as enemies, but as brothers and sisters.”

The movement of peoples has been constant throughout human and biblical history, said Father Lee. “Jesus himself became an immigrant,” noted Father Lee, when Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt after his birth to escape the terror of King Herod.

How strangers and guests are treated speaks much about “who we are as a nation,” said Father Lee. The legal issues can be very complex, he acknowledged. Father Lee shared the story of an undocumented woman from a parish in Illinois whose ex-husband took their children -- born in the U.S. -- back to Mexico without her permission.

“So now we have children in Mexico who have no Mexican rights who are American citizens with no way back into the country,” he said, adding that the children were eventually returned to the woman, who is now on a path to becoming a documented person.

Father Lee urged that reforms be enacted “so those 11 million people already here can be protected and have the dignity that belongs to all of us.”

OTHER SPEAKERS

The Aug. 7 forum was co-sponsored by the Great Lakes Region of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Farm Bureau, and the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network.

Other panelists, all of whom advocated for immigration reform, included:

-- Mark Peters, corporate counsel for Caterpillar, Inc., who handles immigration matters. He outlined the company's global competition and increasing dependence on high-skilled, foreign born workers in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields because of a shortage of talent in the U.S. Caterpillar, he said, "supports common sense, pro-American" immigration reform and that "the time to act is now."

-- Ben Taylor, director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Great Lakes Region. "The immigration system in the U.S. is broken," he said, describing four priorities the Chamber would like to see as part of solutions that cover both high-skilled and lesser-skilled workers, though he preferred the term "valued employees."

-- Pat Bane, a longtime area pork producer representing the McLean County Farm Bureau. "Migrant workers are a very important part of what we do," he said, praising their patience and expertise in handling livestock. Noting the U.S. is "the envy of the world in producing food," he called for reforms because "it would be a shame if we didn't have the resources and labor to continue that."

The panel was moderated by Charlie Moore, president and CEO of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

All panelists encouraged citizens to let their representatives know where they stand on the issues. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has created a website that outlines church teaching on immigration and includes a sample postcard to send to political representatives. It can be found at justiceforimmigrants.org.

HISPANIC BUSINESS: Illinois Employers Want Immigration Reform

August 8, 2013

http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2013/8/8/illinois_employers_want_immigration_reform.htm

Local jobs from farmhand to engineer are being held back by a lack of national immigration reform, local employers said at a panel hosted Wednesday by the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

The discussion, at the chamber's headquarters in Bloomington, brought together local business leaders and representatives of groups such as the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition and Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform to hear panelists speak about the local effect of national immigration laws that many called "broken."

"We hear about how immigration reform will benefit high-tech Silicon Valley companies, but the reality is reform also will benefit large Midwest manufacturing companies like Caterpillar," said Mark Peters, corporate counsel for Peoria-based Caterpillar Inc.

Peters joined other panelists in calling for a loosening of caps on the number of green cards issued to "high-skilled" workers in the science and engineering fields, a uniform employee verification system across all states and a clear path to citizenship for guest workers.

Caterpillar is at a disadvantage compared to its competitors abroad because of restrictions on the

number of foreign workers it can hire under current laws -- even as it faces a shortage of qualified American workers, Peters said. Guest workers seeking U.S. citizenship under the current system may wait as long as a decade to be naturalized as their careers stagnate.

"The last time our laws were updated was when Ronald Reagan was president," said Peters, referring to immigration reform in 1986. "Our [technology](#) has changed dramatically, yet our immigration laws have stayed the same."

Another panelist, Pat Bane, employed seven migrant workers who have since become his entire permanent staff at the Bane Family Pork Farm, a swine farm he owns near Arrowsmith. He called for a guest worker program for farm workers through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He pays some of his workers as much as \$17 an hour for jobs he says require skill and patience.

"The United States is the envy of the world when it comes to producing food," Bane said. "We have the climate, soil, infrastructure, financing. It would be a shame if we didn't have the resources in labor that we need."

The question can't just be one of economics, either, added panelist the Rev. Anthony Lee, pastor at Holy Trinity Catholic Church and St. Patrick's Catholic Church, both in Bloomington. Reform would prevent the victimization of illegal immigrants who feel unable to go to police for help because of their legal status.

"It is a question of human dignity," Lee said. "We can look at numbers and statistics, but we can forget that these people we're talking about have families."

PROGRESS ILLINOIS: Attempts To Deport Nine DREAMers Gets Spotlight As Grassroots Immigration Reform Efforts Surge On

Ashlee Rezin

<http://progressillinois.com/quick-hits/content/2013/08/06/attempts-deport-nine-dreamers-gets-spotlight-grassroots-immigration-re>

Nicho Gonzalez said he is confident his undocumented friend Lulu Martinez, who is without a criminal record, will [soon be released](#) from the Arizona immigrant detention center at which she has been held since June.

Her "unwarranted" detention, he said, will send the message to all of America's undocumented immigrants that "it's time to stand up and let our voices be heard."

"We need to talk about deportations," Gonzalez, 26, said. "We've been talking about this immigration reform legislation, but nothing is being done to stop the deportations or bring back the 1.2 million deportees."

Martinez is one of nine individuals, five women and four men, who have been detained at Eloy Detention Center in Arizona since they tried to cross the border from Mexico into the U.S. on July 22. The group of detainees, known as the DREAM 9, were all brought illegally into the U.S. as young children and boldly tried to cross the border and back last month to protest the nation's broken immigration system and draw attention to the need for reform.

"She knew she was risking it all," Gonzalez said. "But she is creating change right now, she is starting the conversation of real immigration reform and real change."

Gonzalez said the protest, organized by the [National Immigrant Youth Alliance \(NIYA\)](#), of which he and

Martinez are both members, was designed to shed light on the rate in which the Obama administration is deporting undocumented immigrants, despite pending immigration reform legislation.

Martinez, 23, who has been put in solitary confinement and, according to Gonzalez, is shackled every time she leaves her cell, migrated to Chicago when she was only three years-old. She was notified only weeks before she flew to Mexico in protest that she could have stayed lawfully in the U.S. temporarily under the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#) program, which grants a two-year deferral of deportation for undocumented immigrants who came to the states at a young age.

But Gonzalez, who is living with Martinez's mom while she is detained, said DACA "is not enough."

Martinez and six other members of the DREAM 9 — named after the DREAM Act, a bill aimed at providing most young undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship — were notified Monday that their [petitions for U.S. asylum](#) would be considered by a judge. Gonzalez said that could happen anywhere between five days and five months from now.

"This is about empowerment, and it's about not giving up," he said, adding that he is also undocumented and has lived in Chicago for more than 20 years. "We are undocumented and unafraid. We will no longer live in the shadows and we are looking toward a day that our people will no longer live in fear."

More than 400,000 people were [deported](#) in fiscal year 2012, which is a record high for the nation. That amounts to more than 1,100 deportations of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. each day.

"We have a dysfunctional system where people who are eligible to apply for citizenship are waiting up to 23 years for their chance to apply for a VISA," said Fred Tsao, policy director for the [Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights \(ICIRR\)](#). "Most of these are people who are merely trying to make a living in the United States, support their families, and many have U.S. citizen children ... But we also have labor shortages in various sectors of our economy, including agriculture and construction, so this immigration system isn't working for anybody. It needs to be fixed."

[Passed](#) out of the Senate in June, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act Of 2013, [S. 744](#), was drafted by a bipartisan group of senators, including [U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin \(D-IL\)](#). The proposal attempts to create a streamlined path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

But the bill, which calls for a 5- to 10-year wait before an undocumented immigrant can apply for citizenship, [faces an uncertain future](#) in the GOP-led U.S. House of Representatives.

Tsao said there "is some likelihood" the House could pass some version of immigration reform, especially considering that the lower chamber has been working on a [piecemeal legislative package](#) for several months.

"We can't take that for granted, though," he said. "We need to continue to do the work that we need to do to keep pressure on House leadership and make sure the issues keep moving during the summer and into the fall."

While the House is in recess and won't return until September, the [Illinois Business Immigration Coalition \(IBIC\)](#) has launched the "[Illinois' Road To Recovery](#)" August recess campaign. Through a series of events coordinated throughout the state with participation from community stakeholders, high- and low-skilled workers, large corporations and small businesses, IBIC plans to press legislators about the need for immigration reform.

IBIC is partnering with the Great Lakes Region - U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Bibles, Badges & Business For Immigration Reform for the campaign, which kicks off Wednesday in Bloomington, IL.

“Immigration reform is no longer just a moral issue, it’s no longer just a family issue, it’s really an economic issue,” said Raul Raymundo, co-chair of IBIC and CEO of the [The Resurrection Project](#). “CEOs from the likes of [Caterpillar](#), to local business entrepreneurs, are promoting the [Senate] bill because it will benefit our economy on all levels.”

Our nation’s budget deficit, which reached \$1.1 trillion in 2012, could be reduced by \$450 billion if the Senate’s immigration reform legislation was passed, [according to the Congressional Budget Office](#).

Additionally, the nation’s undocumented immigrants contributed \$10.6 billion in state and local taxes in 2010, [according to a new study](#) by the [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy \(ITEP\)](#). If given the chance to secure legal permanent residency, America’s estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants would likely pay even more in taxes every year to state and local governments, the study concludes.

In Illinois, undocumented immigrants contributed more than \$5.6 million in state and local taxes in 2010, ITEP reports. If the Senate bill passed into law, those tax contributions could increase by nearly \$1.5 billion, the study found.

“We can’t underestimate the growth,” said Raymundo. “The economy is going to be strengthened by immigration reform on all levels. For example, at the high-skill level, if we could have immigration reform for a foreigner, who studies here in this country and can get an advanced degree, he or she ought to be on a path to legalization immediately and that doesn’t happen right now.”

On Monday, immigration reform activists [attempted to apply pressure](#) on U.S. Reps. [Aaron Schock \(R, IL-18\)](#) and [Rodney Davis \(R, IL-13\)](#) during a Springfield rally that drew roughly 50 protesters to the state Capitol.

“Both sides agree that (the current immigration system) is broken, so let’s come together and fix it,” Scott Cross, Springfield chapter leader for [Organizing for Action-Illinois](#), which organized the protest, told the *State Journal-Register*. “Neither side is going to get all they want, but the time is now. The Senate passed it, so we really want to push Speaker Boehner to pick it up.”

The demonstration brought protesters to the steps of Schock’s Springfield office. The congressman’s spokesman, Steve Dutton, told the newspaper that Schock supports immigration reform and the House “is currently working on legislative solutions that we expect could be voted on as early as this fall.”

Meanwhile, Gonzalez said immigration reform advocates need to continue to stress the importance of passing comprehensive legislation.

“We’re tired of the debate,” he said. “We’re tired of them sitting around discussing our future.”

He said NIYA, and other advocacy groups, would continue to [call on lawmakers](#) and hold them accountable for their decisions regarding immigration reform.

“We can no longer say we can’t do anything,” he said. “It’s time for the community to wake up and open their eyes and see that once we unite, we can see a brighter future.”

THE PANTAGRAPH (Illinois): Local businesses want immigration reform

by Kenneth Lowe | klowe@pantagraph.com

Aug. 7, 2013

http://www.pantagraph.com/business/local/local-businesses-want-immigration-reform/article_68c10bfo-ffd2-11e2-9695-001a4bcf887a.html

BLOOMINGTON — Local jobs from farmhand to engineer are being held back by a lack of national immigration reform, local employers said at a panel hosted Wednesday by the McLean County Chamber of Commerce.

The discussion, at the chamber's headquarters in Bloomington, brought together local business leaders and representatives of groups such as the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition and Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform to hear panelists speak about the local effect of national immigration laws that many called "broken."

"We hear about how immigration reform will benefit high-tech Silicon Valley companies, but the reality is reform also will benefit large Midwest manufacturing companies like Caterpillar," said Mark Peters, corporate counsel for Peoria-based Caterpillar Inc.

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"It is a question of human dignity," Lee said. "We can look at numbers and statistics, but we can forget that these people we're talking about have families."

WJBC-AM: Panelists call for immigration reform

3:26PM Wednesday

August 7, 2013

<http://www.wjbc.com/common/page.php?pt=Panelists+call+for+immigration+reform&id=73583&is corp=0>

Four panelists discussed the need for immigration reform at a McLean County Chamber of Commerce event Wednesday. (Adam Studzinski/WJBC)By Adam Studzinski

BLOOMINGTON - A group of panelists at the McLean County Chamber of Commerce have agreed that immigration reform is a necessity.

The group met Wednesday at a Chamber-hosted event to discuss why the reform is so vital.

One panelist was Executive Director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Great Lakes Region Ben Taylor. He said it's been far too long since comprehensive immigration reform was done.

"The last reform was in '86," Taylor said. "Imagine the technological changes that have happened since then."

He said a lack of reform is effecting businesses ability to compete worldwide and used Caterpillar Inc. as an example.

"Twenty years ago they had one competitor abroad. Today, in China alone they have 100," said Taylor.

Taylor went on to say that any immigration reform must include a path to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants throughout the nation. He said a majority are already in the employment system and are contributing to the economy.

The U.S. Senate has already passed a version of immigration reform. Republican leaders in the U.S. House are putting together a different version, taking a peacemeal approach to immigration reform. Regardless, Taylor said they need to find a compromise and get it to the president's desk for signature.

Adam Studzinski can be reached at adam.studzinski@cumulus.com.

SaukValley.com: Keep the Sauk Valley a good place to do business

<http://www.saukvalley.com/2013/08/20/keep-the-sauk-valley-a-good-place-to-do-business/afgd7iq/>

Created: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 1:15 a.m. CDT

Business is good in the Sauk Valley, if you believe recent headlines in this newspaper.

During the past few weeks, several retailers and service providers have reported they are setting up shop in this area or expanding their existing operations with new offices.

In Dixon, RadioShack has announced it will put a store in Presidential Parkway Plaza off South Galena Avenue, not far from where Hibbett Sports plans to open a new store. Hibbett already does business in Northland Mall in Sterling.

On the north end of Galena Avenue, a new bakery and café is planned by the owner of Folsom's Bakery in Rock Falls. Nearby, a Liquor 'N' Wine store will open on the site of the former Premier Car Wash, where owner Manesh Patel will set up his fourth store (one of them in Rochelle).

Motorists along East Lincolnway in Sterling have noticed a 6,500-square-foot building going up on the east end of the Northland Mall parking lot, where Advance Auto Parts hopes to be in business by October.

A few blocks east along Lincolnway, Cellular Connection of Rock Falls will open a second store, and a financial adviser with Edward Jones will do business from the investment firm's fourth local office.

And this coming Friday is the scheduled premiere for the "brew and view" in the downtown Sterling Theater, where beer and wine will be served with a light menu to enhance the local movie-going experience. Break a leg!

Amid a lingering national mood of economic uncertainty, why are businesses so willing to invest their time and money in the Sauk Valley?

Obviously, they are confident they can succeed. They see a region that has taken some big hits over the past decade, one that has seen more than its share of change, and yet has continued to be a good place to do business.

The Sauk Valley rates well in many of the qualities that attract new employers and encourage existing businesses to expand: an available workforce, a strong transportation system, good schools, abundant recreational opportunities, and reasonably low taxes, among them.

But the Sauk Valley can remain an attractive place for business only with a stable or growing population. A steady decline would erode the employee and customer base that businesses need to succeed.

While the 2010 Census showed the local population had not changed dramatically since 2000, it continued a trend in lower numbers of Caucasian residents and growth only among non-whites.

Obviously, the Sauk Valley community is adapting well to an increasingly diverse population mix, and it must continue to do so to ensure our region's future.

In that vein, we note that one morning last week, business, law enforcement and faith leaders gathered downstate for a forum organized by the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce to discuss immigration reform. The event continued an "Illinois Road to Recovery" campaign in which the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition is hosting events around the state.

The forum was co-sponsored by the Great Lakes Region of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Bibles, Badges & Business for Immigration Reform network to "emphasize why Illinois businesses and communities urgently need common-sense immigration reform."

The immigration coalition promotes reform to support economic recovery in Illinois, works to provide Illinois companies with both high-skilled and low-skilled workers, and urges the integration of immigrants into the state's economy "as consumers, workers, entrepreneurs and citizens." Immigrants are already a major factor in the Illinois economy, and our corner of northwestern Illinois is no exception. Despite the cries of "amnesty" from those who oppose any path to citizenship for people who entered the country illegally, we must recognize that immigrants contribute far more to the economy than they take.

As an immigration reform bill grinds its way through Congress this fall, folks in the Sauk Valley should understand what is at stake – for their community as well as the country. Several complex issues are involved, but at the heart of the matter is that the nation's more diverse workforce and customer base is a reality we cannot change but must continue to adapt to.

That's just good business – here and everywhere

ILLINOIS PUBLIC MEDIA: GOP, Faith, Law Enforcement Leaders Push For Immigration Reform

<http://www.will.illinois.edu/news/story/gop-faith-law-enforcement-leaders-push-for-immigration-reform>

A diverse group has brought a plea for common sense immigration reform to Champaign.

The speakers in a Wednesday panel hosted by the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce say they're optimistic about a compromise after Congress returns from recess.

They included Logan County Republican Party Chair Dave Bender, who suggested the GOP could take a lesson from Democrats, who have a wide area of views on immigration, while some Republicans are labeled as ultra-conservative.

"I think there's very little difference between the two," he said. "We all want economic security. We all want government kind of out of all lives. We want to create a system that is fair for all. I just think there's a little part of it where we disagree, and as long as we have education as part of it, I don't think we can go wrong."

Bender heads the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois, and says current immigration policy is hurting in areas like bridge construction and repair, where skilled labor is needed.

Lake County Sheriff Mike Curran told the panel about his frustrations with the number of immigrants arrested over petty offenses that wind up incarcerated.

He's affiliated with Bibles, Badges, and Business - a group that seeks modernized immigration laws, safety and security on the borders, and worker programs.

Curran has taken his message to Washington to business leaders under Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist.

"From a law enforcement perspective, I talked about that, that the future is community policing," he said. "We're not going to have rule of law unless we pass this bill, and clearly the hope is that people listen, and they recognized that as conservatives, we should be behind this."

Both Curran and Logan County GOP Chairman Dave Bender also criticized conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh.

Bender says Limbaugh's comments are 'not even remotely' close to what's being sought in Senate Bill 744, but he's encouraged by other Republicans in Congress, including some in Illinois - and the backing of business leaders, like Caterpillar CEO Doug Oberhelman.

Panelist and Champaign First Mennonite Church Pastor Janet Rasmussen cited the 'dynamic growth' of immigrants within congregations. She said church-going Hispanics are fighting for a better life for those back home.

University of Illinois YMCA Executive Director Mike Doyle cited the example of Pakistani native and U of I graduate Shahid Kahn, who legally became a U.S. citizen through the difficult process years ago, and now owns auto parts maker Flex-N-Gate, an NFL team., and an English soccer team.

Doyle said he wonders how many more from overseas aspire to be like Khan.

KANE COUNTY CHRONICLE: Panel talks immigration reform in Geneva

By ASHLEY SLOBODA - asloboda@shawmedia.com

Created: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 5:30 a.m. CDT

<http://www.kcchronicle.com/2013/08/21/panel-talks-immigration-reform-in-geneva/al3mc2h/>

GENEVA – Having been born just a few miles away from the Texas-Mexico border, Noel Castellanos knows how his life could have been different had he been born in Mexico instead of in the United States.

The pastor and CEO of the Christian Community Development Association said he has worked to improve the lives of his fellow Mexican-Americans. But none of his efforts could fix problems stemming from immigration issues, he said.

“The problem was the laws in place in our country are very, very broken,” Castellanos said. Castellanos, along with five other panelists, addressed immigration reform Tuesday night during a forum at St. Mark’s Church in Geneva. It was co-sponsored by the Bibles, Badges & Business for Immigration Reform Network; the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce-Great Lakes Region; the Christian Community Development Association; and World Relief DuPage/Aurora.

Panelist Kane County Sheriff Pat Perez, whose grandparents came from Mexico and Yugoslavia, said he doesn’t have tolerance for those who come to the United States to commit such “acts of evil” as selling illegal drugs. For those who are entering the country for more noble purposes, such as wanting to provide a better life for their family, he said he is encouraged by forums like Tuesday’s.

“I think the engagement we have here is the first step of the solution,” Perez said.

From a law enforcement perspective, Perez said it is common for people to mistakenly believe authorities can jail those who are here illegally and deport them. That, he said, is a civil offense – not a criminal one.

Noting the county jail is usually filled to capacity, he added, “Where would I put the people who are here illegally?”

Although proposed legislation was alluded to, the panelists talked more in broader terms, not specific solutions. Batavia resident Yvonne Dinwiddie pointed that out.

“I heard no proposals here tonight,” she said.

She offered her solution for immigration reform: have immigrants register with their employer. Ben Taylor, director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce-Great Lakes Region, said her idea was similar to the E-Verify employment verification system in proposed legislation.

Indiana

ELKHART TRUTH: Elkhart chamber, Catholic diocese call for immigration reform

Posted: 08/22/2013 at 2:35 pm

By: Tim Vandenack

tvandenack@etruth.com

<http://www.elkharttruth.com/article/20130822/NEWS01/708229972>

ELKHART — The time is ripe for immigration reform — including a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants — and if it doesn't happen now, prospects for change anytime soon may fade.

That was the message at a gathering Thursday, Aug. 22, of a coalition pushing for reform, an ongoing point of debate in Congress.

"The fact is, this is a real opportunity," said Fred Everett, director of the office of family life at the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "What a shame it would be if we don't take that step forward."

The U.S. Senate has crafted a comprehensive immigration reform plan, but the U.S. House has yet to act and prospects are sketchier in that body. With that in mind, Everett and reps from several other groups pushing for reform gathered at the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce to prod the effort along.

There were calls for U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, the local representative in Congress, to take a role in moves to craft a reform plan in the U.S. House and calls for the public to get in touch with their lawmakers.

"I invite you to act, to do something," said Angela Adams, an Indianapolis-based immigration attorney who helped organize Thursday's meeting. "Make a call to your local congressperson, send a letter, write an email."

Aside from Everett and Adams, those speaking out included Elkhart chamber President Kyle Hannon, Elkhart County Prosecutor Curtis Hill and Randy Johnson, a vice president from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from Walorski's office were also at the meeting, though they didn't publicly address the group.

Johnson, a veteran of efforts to craft immigration reform in 2001 and 2005-06, offered 50-50 prospects on a final plan emerging in Congress.

"Who knows what's going to be done in the House," said Johnson. The degree of opposition to reform moves, however, "is much less than it was years ago."

Hannon just hopes the House comes up with some sort of reform measure, leading to a conference committee with Senate reps on their plan and, ideally, compromise legislation.

Walorski, though not present, issued a statement in response to the meeting, sponsored by a group dubbed the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network, an initiative of the National Immigration Forum, a Washington, D.C.-based immigrant advocacy group.

The U.S. immigration system is "broken," said Walorski, a Republican, and "fairness and careful consideration" must be given to the situation.

“I encourage the House to focus on designing a workable system to address critical issues like border security and a visa entry-exit system, tracking individuals entering and leaving the U.S. on temporary visas for improved national security,” Walorski said.

She didn’t touch on the notion of a pathway to citizenship or some sort of legal status for undocumented immigrants. That was a central call among representatives at Thursday’s meeting and it’s one of the sticky points in the debate.

The Elkhart and U.S. chambers also say any reform plan should improve border security, enhance U.S. visa programs geared to high- and low-skilled workers and upgrade the federal employment verification system, called E-Verify.

‘MORE HUMANE PERSPECTIVE’

Hill, the Elkhart County prosecutor, alluded to the start of the influx of Latino immigrants into Elkhart County in the 1990s. At times he felt “uncomfortable,” he said, but his view has evolved, in part due to contact with the Hispanic and immigrant communities in school activities involving his children.

“We have to look at it from a more humane perspective,” he said. As prosecutor, he continued, “I found some bad ones. But I can tell you the bad ones were a very, very, very tiny percentage.”

By relying at times on false documents, lying on forms because of their migratory status, undocumented immigrants “start down a path of illegal or improper activity,” Hill said. Nonetheless, the notion of rounding up the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the country and deporting them, favored by some, isn’t realistic, as he sees it.

“We can’t have an intelligent discussion about immigration reform until we put that aside,” said Hill, a Republican. Undocumented immigrants, he later continued, are “not going anywhere, so the next question is, what do you want to do with them?”

Everett said the act of crossing the U.S. border without proper papers doesn’t make undocumented immigrants felons. “Consequently, we shouldn’t be treating these people as criminals,” he said.

REACHING ‘DISSENTING’ VOICES

Lacking from Thursday’s gathering were vocal representatives of sectors less open to creating a pathway to citizenship or legalization for undocumented immigrants. The reform proposal from the Democrat-led Senate contains provisions addressing the matter, but the GOP-led House has been more reluctant on the matter.

Saulo Padilla, an attendee Thursday who works with immigrants as part of his duties with the Mennonite Central Committee in Goshen, noted the absence after the meeting, saying such sectors should be included in events like Thursday’s gathering. “How do reach those voices who are still dissenting so we can have a real conversation?” he said.

JOURNAL AND COURIER: Community urges action on immigration reform

By Ron Wilkins

August 27, 2013

<http://www.jconline.com/article/20130827/NEWS/308270035/Community-urges-action-immigration-reform>

Immigration reform issues bogged down in the [House of Representatives](#) bear little resemblance to the images of tattered and tired people climbing border fences to sneak into the United States.

The issue is much larger than that, panelists said during an immigration reform roundtable sponsored by [Greater Lafayette Commerce](#) on Tuesday. The presentation focused on the economic and social ramifications of current immigration policy and possible changes.

“We see this as much more than just a political issue,” said Joe Seaman, Commerce president and chief executive officer. “It also impacts business, both large business and small business.”

Organizers of the roundtable, titled [Bible, Badges and Business](#), invited panelists from the clergy, law enforcement and business to comment on the need to update the nation’s immigration laws, which have not been changed since 1986.

For perspective on how much has changed since that time, Mark Peters, corporate counsel for Caterpillar Inc., said in 1986 a cellphone cost \$1,300 and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was 2 years old.

“Technology has changed greatly, but our laws haven’t. It’s time that we changed our laws to adapt to that technology,” Peters said. “Immigration, as it is structured today, has created serious challenges for companies like Caterpillar and similar situated companies.

“It’s no surprise that we have a huge shortage of U.S.-born engineers, technologists and scientists. Manufacturing creates 65 to 70 percent of engineering jobs and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) jobs. But since 2003, each year the number of STEM U.S.-born graduates has gone down, and you can see where that creates an obvious gap for companies like Caterpillar and other high-tech companies.”

Ideally, international students at Purdue University and elsewhere could help fill the gap. But, Peters said, visa policies for foreign-born workers are complicated, and many have to leave because they can’t get visas renewed.

“I just had numerous friends from Egypt, China, India,” said Mikel Berger, president of Lafayette Tech, a nonprofit group that encourages entrepreneurship. “These are the brightest minds in the entire world. They have a lot of money, a lot of access to money, resource and power.

“They can choose to live anywhere in the world. They want to live right here. ... But it’s very difficult to start a company (without being) an American citizen,” he said. “I think it would be great for our country and our state if we had those businesses to grow here and then become multinational businesses.”

Umesh Patel, vice president of product development at Cook Biotech in West Lafayette, agreed.

“If we had common-sense reform on our legal process, that would be a tremendous help to making sure we get the best talent to produce these devices in Indiana,” he said.

“We are competing against other countries for this talent, and if we don’t have this reform, it puts us at a disadvantage.”

During the badges portion of the dialogue, West Lafayette Police Chief Jason Dombkowski said the federal government needs to clarify the role of law enforcement of immigration issues, and proposed reforms would do that, taking local authorities out of possibly having to enforce federal laws.

Clergy addressed the justice side of immigration reform.

“Justice is a huge theme in the Bible,” said Pastor Drew Poppleton of Heartland Community Church in Lafayette.

The Bible says that when God led the Israelites out of Egypt, he told them not to treat others the way they were treated by the Egyptians, Poppleton said. That meant watching over widows and orphans, and helping aliens in their midst.

The Rev. Michael McKinney of All Saints Parish in Logansport echoed Poppleton's comments.

"(Jesus) is the embodiment of the father's love for his people, particularly the poor," McKinney said. "In the great tradition of the social teaching of the church, how we treat the least among us says a lot about who we say God is and how we experience God's love."

The panelists didn't take a specific stand on proposals from the Senate bill, which is in the House. They did suggest that immigration be made easier for those already employed, from seasonal workers to professionals and scientists.

"We just have been stuck," Seaman said of the comprehensive Senate bill, which members of the House say needs to be broken into pieces before they'll consider it.

"That's fine," Seaman said. "Please address some of those pieces. We need some action."

PURDUE EXPONENT: Forum gathers to discuss and push for immigration reform

http://www.purdueexponent.org/city_state/article_337fdd26-of28-11e3-81ae-001a4bcf6878.html

by **LOGAN JUDY | Staff Reporter**

Residents and officials of the Greater Lafayette gathered on Tuesday morning in an effort to put pressure on Congress for immigration reform.

46 people, including eight panelists, gathered on Tuesday morning at the Lafayette Bank and Trust to discuss the effect of immigration on the community. Panelists came from three different perspectives: religious, legal and business. After a statement by each of the panelists in favor of immigration reform, the panel responded to questions from the audience.

Those who asked questions were supporters of immigration reform, with one immigrant from The Philippines asking about whether immigration reform would favor undocumented immigrants or those who have been waiting for a green card for several years.

Part of the purpose of the event was to convince supporters to put more pressure on Congress, according to Angela Adams, an immigration lawyer and the Midwest regional coordinator for Bibles, Badges and Business, one of the hosts of the forum. She encouraged attendees to take advantage of Congress' August recess and talk to their respective Congressmen, in order to instigate immigration reform.

The Exponent will keep updating this story.

WBAA: Roundtable discussion focuses on immigration reform

<http://wbaa.org/post/roundtable-discussion-focuses-immigration-reform>

By [Kristin Malavenda](#)

A group of Lafayette-area community leaders is promoting the idea of providing a common sense path to citizenship in the U.S.

The forum Tuesday morning was sponsored by the [Bibles, Badges, and Business for Immigration Reform Network](#).

Mark Peters is Corporate Counsel for Caterpillar. He says manufacturers worldwide are competing for highly-skilled employees.

Peters says Congress needs to make the immigration process less cumbersome so the United States is on a level playing field when trying to recruit foreign workers.

He says CAT supports measures such as reducing the green card backlog and tying the allotment of certain visas to demand rather than a fixed amount.

The Bibles, Badges, and Business group is encouraging people across the nation to contact their lawmakers to urge them to pass these and other reforms.

FT. WAYNE JOURNAL GAZETTE: Local forum on immigration bill set today

Brian Francisco | Washington editor

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20130828/LOCAL08/308289944/1044/LOCAL08>

Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network hopes Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-3rd, will read this story and others like it.

The group, part of the National Immigration Forum, will have an immigration reform roundtable discussion at 10:30 a.m. today at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church. Six people – three from churches, the Angola police chief, a farmer and the owner of a steel coil producer – will take part.

The discussion is among 46 similar forums scheduled across the country this month by Bibles, Badges and Business. The intent is to drum up support for sweeping immigration legislation among Republican members of the House while they are home during their August recess.

“Now that (Stutzman) is in the district, the aim is to show him there is support from conservative leaders in his district for immigration reform that is common sense, that is fair and that is compassionate,” Mario Moreno, a spokesman for the Washington-based advocacy group, said Tuesday in a telephone interview.

A few lawmakers have attended the discussions, Moreno said, while others have sent staff members. Stutzman’s office said it plans to have a staffer attend.

The Democratic Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill in June. Bibles, Badges and Business endorsed the legislation.

Moreno said his month’s events – there was a roundtable discussion Tuesday in Lafayette that tried to grab the attention of Rep. Todd Rokita, R-4th – show that business, law enforcement and faith leaders agree an improved immigration system is needed.

Bibles, Badges and Business favors a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants living in the U.S., tightly controlled worker visa programs, border security that targets smugglers and employer verification that immigrant workers are legal.

On his congressional website, Stutzman writes, “Genuine immigration reform must first include border security, then reform of a convoluted and contradictory immigration system.”

He also states, “I simply cannot support a welfare system for illegal immigrants.”

**FT. WAYNE JOURNAL GAZETTE: Area’s undocumented workers discussed
Immigration changes vital, small-business owners, clergy say**

Brian Francisco | Washington editor

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20130829/LOCAL/308299977/1002>

FORT WAYNE – A state law requires police agencies to report undocumented immigrants they encounter.

“That’s not going to happen,” Angola Police Chief Stuart Hamblen said Wednesday. “ ... We can’t criminalize these people.”

Noble County dairy farmer John Metzger said he’d soon be out of business if a federal investigation would find illegal immigrants working for him.

“We believe everyone we hire is legal. ... But we’re all in fear of what could happen,” Metzger said.

Anderson factory owner Barry Sharp learned the hard way. Three federal audits of his S&S Steel Services Inc. resulted in no fines for him in 2012, he said, but nearly half of his 170 workers quit when questions arose about some Social Security numbers. Steel coil production plunged at the plant.

“We’re still not fully recovered,” Sharp said.

Sharp, Metzger and Hamblen took part in a Wednesday roundtable discussion at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church sponsored by Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network, a project of the National Immigration Forum.

Bibles, Badges and Business Midwest Coordinator Angela Adams, an immigration attorney in Indianapolis, said her group’s goal is “to bring voices that are not traditionally thought of as in this discussion.” Immigration debate has been “dominated by the far right and the far left for so long,” she said.

The six people on the panel, including three local clergy, agreed that a revamped immigration system should include a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S., improved worker visa programs and strong border security.

The Democratic Senate approved such a bill in June. The Republican House is expected to divide its immigration legislation into a few separate proposals.

Bibles, Badges and Business has been conducting immigration forums in Republican congressional districts. Adams said Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-3rd, told her group that his office is hearing mostly from constituents who want more restrictive legislation approved.

A Stutzman staffer confirmed that most callers on the subject would like to see U.S. borders better protected against the influx of illegal immigrants.

“We have to do our part to make sure (lawmakers) hear those voices who support a pathway to citizenship,” Adams told the discussion audience of more than 40 people.

The audience included state Sen. Carlin Yoder, R-Middlebury, who is Stutzman’s district director. Yoder did not speak, but Adams noted his presence and thanked him for attending.

Christian clergy on the panel said they favor comprehensive immigration legislation on moral and spiritual grounds.

“It is the church’s responsibility to care for those who are vulnerable,” said Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab of the Lutheran Foundation.

Rev. Joe Johns of Fellowship Missionary Church said undocumented immigrants he knows “want an opportunity to make things right.”

Rev. Lloyd (Sam) Cunningham of St. Patrick Catholic Church said: “I don’t see numbers (of immigrants). I see people. I see flesh and blood.”

Angola Police Chief Hamblen said he is aware of illegal immigrants living in his city.

“The undocumented immigrants that we have are law-abiding other than our immigration law,” he said. “They don’t give us any problems.”

FT. WAYNE NEWS-SENTINEL: Bibles, Badges and Business looks for support for federal immigrant reform bill

[By Ellie Bogue](#) of The News-Sentinel
Thursday, August 29, 2013 - 12:01 am

<http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130829/NEWS/130829592>

Barry Sharp, owner /president of S&S Steel Services would like to see a change in current immigration laws.

In 2011 the IRS, immigration services and finally the Department of Transportation audited Sharp's company, which employs 170 workers. Workers were asked to produce their Social Security cards for validation. Nearly half the staff, 83 people, quit. All three audits turned up nothing.

Sharp spoke Wednesday morning as part of a panel at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, 300 E Wayne, sponsored by Bibles, Badges and Business. The group is lobbying for the federal Immigration reform bill. The panel was made up of area law enforcement, clergy, and business owners.

The Senate approved a sweeping immigration bill on June 27, and now it has moved on to the House. Bibles, Badges and Business has been hosting round tables around the state to inform the public about the need for change in the current laws and why the changes would be welcomed.

The new immigration reform would allow millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States to get on the path to becoming legal citizens. The group would like to have the public contact their representatives in Washington to voice their opinions. Currently, according to Angela Adams, Bibles, Badges and Business regional coordinator, said lawmakers are only hearing from the far right on this matter.

Sharp said the dozens of employees who left his company were all hard workers who wanted a job, but they were afraid. Sharp, who had been looking for non-union labor when he moved his company from Muncie to Anderson, couldn't find many locals willing to work. But he had been able to find people eager to work from within the growing Hispanic population in the area. With the loss of 83 workers,

Sharp's production dropped, and he was forced to hire other people. Now he said he deals with drug problems at his factory, with several people being arrested for the use of methamphetamine.

"I still see my former employees around town, and they want to come back and work," Sharp said.

But without legal documentation they can't. Sharp said these are not people who are taking jobs away from legal residents; he has had a hard time filling the vacant positions they left.

Northeast Indiana dairy farmer John Metzger echoed Sharp's frustration with the current immigration laws.

Metzger said he had second thoughts about speaking up on the topic of immigration reform because he is afraid he too could go through the audit process. Like Sharp, he requests documentation from his employees and said he has done nothing wrong.

Work on his large operation is back-breaking physical labor and he can't find locally many people who are willing to put in the long hours of hard work. Should he ever have to let his workers go, he is afraid he would be out of business in three days. There are simply not enough members of his family to fill in.

Another panelist, the Rev. Lloyd Cunningham, Catholic priest/spiritual director at St. Patrick Catholic Church, compared the United States' lack of welcome to the current undocumented immigrant population and outdated immigration system to the unwelcoming actions of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Book of Genesis.

The Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, director of ministry programs for the Lutheran Foundation, said it is as simple as recognizing the population as human beings who have the same rights as everyone else. Currently they are operating under a double system. They can work, but they are not receiving any of the benefits of documented immigrants, and there is no path for them to follow toward getting citizenship, Mengsteab said. These people are living in the shadows.

Stuart Hamblen, chief of the Angola Police Department, was also on the panel and said under a current state law he is supposed to report any undocumented immigrants to federal authorities.

Hamblen said in his community these immigrants are some the most law-abiding residents he has and he doesn't have time to run around and arrest these people.

"That law is no good and they need to get rid of it," Hamblen said.

He would like to see some sort of a system in place so that when undocumented immigrants cross the border they could immediately get legally documented and get on the path to citizenship.

The problem goes beyond the spectrum of low-skilled entry-level jobs, Angela Adams pointed out, there are many students on visa's in the country learning the high-tech skills that are so in demand these days. But once they achieve their degree they can't stay. One of the components in the Immigration reform bill could change this, according to Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI). Expanding the high-skilled nonimmigrant visas in Indiana could add more than 620 new high skilled workers in the state by 2014.

According to research by (REMI), in Indiana "more than \$1,785 will be added to the Gross State Product in 2014 and this will increase to more than \$8,453 by 2020." REMI also estimated "by 2020 real personal income per capita in Indiana will increase by \$64."

The Exponent (Indiana): Forum gathers to promote immigration reform

By Logan Judy August 28, 2013

http://www.purdueexponent.org/city_state/article_703e2382-dab4-59bd-8338-0c16a0f4029b.html

Residents and officials of the Greater Lafayette area demanded immigration reform Tuesday morning.

46 people, including eight panelists, gathered on Tuesday morning at the Lafayette Bank & Trust to discuss the effect of immigration on the community. Panelists came from three different perspectives: religious, legal and economic. After a statement by each of the panelists in favor of immigration reform, the panel responded to questions from the audience.

The forum spoke largely to the argument that immigration costs Americans jobs. According to Joseph Seaman, president and chief executive officer of Greater Lafayette Commerce, this is not valid. He also said that in the Greater Lafayette area, there are more than enough jobs for future immigrants as well as current residents.

"I do (think there will be enough jobs)," Seaman said. "TRW (Automotive) is adding employees, (Subaru of Indiana Automotive) is adding employees ... and they all need everything from trained, skilled factory workers to engineers and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) type of employees."

Panelists said the long waiting period and cumbersome process of immigration discourages immigrants from coming, as well as international graduates from staying. An immigrant from the Philippines spoke of someone she knew who had been waiting 22 years for a green card.

In answering possible objections of those against immigration reform, the possible loss of American jobs was addressed. In doing so, local business men and women quelled their fears.

Levi Huffman, owner of Huffman and Hawbaker Farms, said immigrants are often the only people who apply for seasonal work at his farm, who they need in order to get through the busy harvest season.

"It's not a point of we're taking jobs away from Americans," Seaman said, referencing Huffman's remarks. "We just don't have enough people to do some of these jobs."

In addition to jobs for blue collar workers, Mark Peters, who oversees immigration at Caterpillar, said immigration is important for their workforce.

"There is a shortage of U.S.-born educated engineers and scientists," Peters said. "We're very dependent on foreign-born folks who are educated in those fields."

Among those in support was the moderator for the event, Suresh Garimella, Purdue's chief global affairs officer. He said immigration reform could benefit Purdue.

"Clearly anything to do with immigration and making it easier for our students to stay here affects Purdue," Garimella said, referring to Purdue's high number of international students, which he said numbered at about 8,500. "We would like them to be locally employed and to contribute to the country ... an important faction of our faculty are also immigrants and it would make our ability to attract the best faculty and staff from overseas much easier."

Part of the purpose of the event was to convince supporters to put more pressure on Congress, according to Angela Adams, an immigration lawyer and the Midwest regional coordinator for Bibles, Badges and Business (BBB), the primary host of the forum. She encouraged attendees to take advantage of Congress' August recess and talk to their respective Congressmen in order to instigate immigration reform.

"If you're not comfortable joining BBB or a coalition or alliance or whatever you want to call it, do your own thing," Adams said. "But do something."

**WLFI (CBS): News Channel 18 This Morning
Bibles, Badges, & Business Immigration Reform Roundtable - Lafayette, IN**

August 28, 2013

<http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=4415&DateTime=08%2F28%2F2013+06%3A35%3A50&mediapreload=14&playclip=true>

Minnesota

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO: 'Bibles, Badges and Business' come together for immigration reform

By Laura Yuen,

August 29, 2013

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2013/08/29/bibles-badges-business-immigration-reform-coalition>

Some Minnesota farmers, Christians and business leaders are lending their voices to the fight for immigration reform.

The unusual alliance, which also includes law enforcement officials, is part of a national network known as "Bibles, Badges, and Business." The coalition is urging Congress to keep working on a solution to the country's immigration problems when lawmakers reconvene next week.

Patrick Lunemann, a dairy farmer from Todd County and president of the Minnesota Milk Producers, said anti-immigration voices, including those in his own backyard, are drowning out what he considers to be the silent majority.

"Extremism hasn't just come for a visit. It's taking over in our communities," Lunemann said. "The only way to get away from that is to have one-on-one discussions with our neighbors and our friends about how important the immigration issue is."

Lunemann said if lawmakers can't find a way for new labor to come into the country, the United States will head toward a food-security crisis. He said farmers already can't find enough workers to milk cows and grow crops.

Carl Nelson of the Transform Minnesota evangelical network said a pathway to citizenship has become a personal cause for many pastors touched by stories within their own congregations.

"We've seen that their families are broken up because of our current immigration system," Nelson said. "We see individuals who are trapped in the shadows without a hope for the future, and people who are

being treated without dignity and whose self-esteem is being beaten down because of the system we're in."

Nelson said faith leaders need to help change the conversation on immigration in this country.

He was joined today at a panel discussion that also included the Minnesota Farm Bureau, the state's chamber of commerce, and the Minnesota Catholic Conference.

MinnPost (Minnesota): Broad Minnesota immigration coalition sees hope for reform

By Devin Henry

August 28, 2013

<http://www.minnpost.com/dc-dispatches/2013/08/broad-minnesota-immigration-coalition-sees-hope-reform>

Minnesota immigration reform advocates want lawmakers, set to return to their duties in Washington in a few weeks, to come out of the August recess having heard their message loud and clear.

A coalition of Minnesota business, labor, and faith and social-welfare groups have held events around the Twin Cities six out of the last seven days, from a rally with U.S. Reps. Keith Ellison and Luis Guterrez on Sunday to a forum that drew 400 advocates to Chaska last week.

With President Obama naming immigration reform a top priority this session, reform advocacy kicked into high gear around the country as early as this spring. In Minnesota, the main groups lobbying for reform have grouped together into an often unlikely coalition of supporters, from the Chamber of Commerce and state business groups to labor unions and religious and social welfare organizations. Their goal: Preach reform as a non-partisan priority, and convince lawmakers to support it.

"It's one of the broadest coalition that I've seen or worked with in my 30-plus years of doing public affairs work, so it's a big, broad tent," said Bill Blazar, senior vice president for public affairs and business at the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. "But, given the nature of the issue, this is probably what is required."

Everyone is looking for something different

The groups came to support immigration reform in a number of ways.

Labor groups like the SEIU have long backed reform because so many union members could benefit from it. Local 26 President Javier Morillo said it's been a priority of his since he took over as president in 2005 (he spent five months in Washington in 2010 trying to get the issue on lawmakers' radar). He said this time around, reform supporters are "in the best position we've ever been."

The state Chamber took up the mantle about six years ago, Blazar said, after its members considered the impact of immigration on Minnesota's economy. The group began lobbying with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota around 2008, he said.

Social welfare groups, like the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration and the faith-based ISALAH group, which sponsored Sunday's Chaska forum, have long backed reform of some kind. The Rev. John Gutterman of the Interfaith Coalition said his group's mission over the past few years has been to both influence lawmakers and convince the faith community as a whole that immigration should be a priority.

"I think we're getting close right now," he said. "The broadness of the coalition is part of the reason."

The Chamber, SEIU, ISALAH, the Minnesota Immigrant Law Center and 15 other organizations make up the Minnesota Business Immigration Coalition, which supports “comprehensive federal reform that recognizes the needs of our economy; protects national security; and is humane.”

Of course, everyone is looking for something a bit different in a reform package.

The Chamber, for example, has three main priorities, Blazar said: Improving employee verification standards and tools, reforming and redesigning the visa program and addressing the legal status of 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

Morillo said labor is concerned with the status question, and protecting immigrants once they get a job. For the faith community, it’s a matter of protecting and preserving families throughout the immigration process—an immigrant here illegally set to go to trial should be able to stay with his family instead of in jail, for instance.

‘The intensity is on our side now’

But there is no tension between the individual factions, at least right now. Their goal—comprehensive reform—is the same, even if the specifics need to be hammered out later.

In fact, activists see the coalition’s individual parts as each having influence in different areas. Morillo said the Chamber and business groups have focused a lot on Rep. John Kline, for example, a Republican who has said he’s open to support reform.

“The elected officials need to see that there is broad support for reform,” Blazar said. “I think we need a broad coalition to make progress on any or all of those issues.”

Reform advocates have focused much of their attention on metro Republicans Kline and Erik Paulsen, and moderate Democratic Rep. Collin Peterson. To that end, the SEIU says it’s done door-knocking campaigns around the metro and two or three immigration phone banks every week, beyond events like the Chaska gathering last week.

Gutterman said he’s met with either lawmakers or staffers for every member of the Minnesota delegation, from staunch supporters of reform (Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken, who voted for a bill passed by the Senate in June), to those opposed (Rep. Michele Bachmann). Activists’ goal, he said, is to try making immigration a non-partisan issue.

“Nobody will do this on their own,” he said. “We really need Congress to step outside the partisan divide and look at what’s good for the country.”

Where immigration reform has failed in the past, Morillo said he sees an opening this time around.

“The main difference we see is that in past moments where this issue has been discussed, the common wisdom was: The ‘Anti-s’ beat us out in terms of passion,” he said. “The intensity is on our side now.”

MINN POST: Faith groups, law enforcement and business team up to encourage immigration reform

<http://www.minnpost.com/political-agenda/2013/08/faith-groups-law-enforcement-and-business-team-encourage-immigration-reform>

By [Joe Kimball](#) | 09:14 am

A coalition of faith leaders, law enforcement officers and business people will meet Thursday to discuss immigration reform and urge the U.S. House to take action when it returns from the August recess.

A forum sponsored by the group [Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform](#) will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday at U.S. Bank, 9633 Lyndale Ave. S., Bloomington.

Organizers say speakers will "highlight the support for broad reform in Minnesota and urge the state's congressional delegation to vote 'yes' on common sense immigration reform."

Scheduled to attend are:

- **Jason Adkins**, executive director, Minnesota Catholic Conference
- **Bill Blazer**, senior vice president of public affairs and business development, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- **Amber Hanson**, associate director of public policy, Minnesota Farm Bureau
- **Doug Loon**, vice president of Regional Affairs and Advocacy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- **Patrick Lunemann**, president, Minnesota Milk Producers Association
- **Carl Nelson**, president, Transform Minnesota: The Evangelical Network.

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LV Sun | [Heck yearns for comprehensive discussion, not rhetoric, on immigration reform](#)

U.S. Rep. Joe Heck knows the "pathway to citizenship" is the sticky part of the immigration-reform debate that sends politicians into frazzled fits of tongue-tied constituent coddling.

The second-term Republican congressman from Henderson has been more forthcoming about his thoughts than many of his GOP counterparts in the House. He calls the recently approved Senate plan to legalize the status and, after a decade or more, provide opportunities for citizenship to the 11 million immigrants residing in the country illegally "reasonable."

Yet, as the House takes a piecemeal approach to addressing the various facets of the immigration system that the Senate bill tackled in one large piece of legislation passed in June, Heck acknowledges there is no guarantee a House bill will emerge that takes on the thorny issue of citizenship.

With the House engaged in formulating a counter to the Senate plan for reforming the immigration system, Heck wants everyone to see the larger picture. To that end, he participated in a panel discussion on immigration Monday morning at the [South by Southwest V2V conference](#) at the Cosmopolitan.

"When you first start off, everybody is concentrating on the issue of the undocumented, but as you start to peel back, like we have today with this panel, you realize there is a lot more to immigration reform than just that one piece," Heck said in an interview after the panel.

“There’s a whole lot more underlying immigration reform that is critical to the future economy of our nation, whether it’s high-tech, whether it’s agricultural guest visas, whether it’s E-Verify to protect against worker exploitation. ... There are so many pieces to it. I wish that the discussion was always more comprehensive. Because then I think people would better understand that this truly is in our vital national and economic interests.”

Mark Falzone, deputy director of the [National Immigration Forum](#), a nonprofit organization that works to influence federal immigration policy and supported passage of the Senate bill, moderated the panel. The event was put on by the forum’s [“Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform,”](#) an organization of religious leaders, law enforcement personnel and business community members seeking to influence Congress.

Joining Heck on the panel were three immigrant startup business founders: Scott Allison, Alex Torrenegra and Andrew Crump. Both the House and Senate have introduced legislation that would expand avenues for high-skilled workers and entrepreneurs to come to the country, and that is where the panelists focused.

Torrenegra, an immigrant from Colombia and CEO of [VoiceBunny](#), said he recently spent \$21,000 applying for three high-skilled labor visas. Two of the applications never were processed because the U.S. cap on the visas was met so quickly.

“One application is being looked at, but the other two were \$14,000 wasted,” Torrenegra said.

Torrenegra, whose company is based in San Francisco, said he ended up hiring one of the “very talented” people he was trying to bring to the United States to work from abroad. He paid for that employee to hire his own staff of four people, jobs Torrenegra said could have gone to people in the United States.

Crump, whom the [Vegas Tech Fund](#) lured to Las Vegas, echoed Torrenegra’s thoughts. He said his small company, [Bluefields](#), spent three months and \$50,000 on flights, lawyers and application fees to get the right team in place, and not all of its visa requests were granted.

“I’d seriously question whether I would go the same route again,” said Crump, a London native.

The comments resonated with Heck, who expressed concern the U.S. was falling behind other countries in how it lured talented workers and entrepreneurs.

After the panel, Heck visited a Roberto’s Taco Shop in Henderson where he met with Reynaldo Robledo and Rogelio Robledo, members of the of the family that founded the chain almost 50 years ago. Heck learned the ropes of running a Mexican restaurant, discussed policy with the Robledos, and expanded on the morning’s discussion.

“We already are losing out to other countries that are more willing and have less onerous pathways to allow entrepreneurs into their country,” Heck said, noting immigrants were more likely than native-born residents to start their own businesses.

“If we want to capture a share of that industry, then we need to be a little more welcoming than we are. There was the one example of the CEO of VoiceBunny, who invested \$20,000 to try and get somebody here on an H1-B visa, and it got denied. That was money he’ll never recoup,” Heck said.

Heck said he was working with other representatives on a House version of the DREAM Act, previously failed legislation that offers legal status to immigrants who arrived in the United States at a young age

and had served in the military or gone to college. Heck wants to require applicants to earn either a two- or four-year degree, not just have attended college. Those receiving trade certificates, such as completed training in auto mechanics, also would qualify.

Heck previously voted to defund Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the Obama administration program that targeted the same demographic of immigrants. The program, Heck said, was an overreach of executive power. His vote, he said, did not reflect his opinion of the DREAM Act in general.

Heck knows the toughest battle of immigration reform will be over any proposal that offers eventual citizenship to people in the country illegally. Recent rhetoric from his fellow congressman, Steve King, R-Iowa, that labeled immigrants who cross the border illegally as predominantly drug mules, is counterproductive and “inflammatory,” Heck said.

Reynaldo Robledo’s parents came from Mexico, and, after working several jobs, started their restaurant franchise in 1964 in San Diego. Robledo shared a sentiment with panelist Torrenegra, arguing the most important aspect of reform is to allow immigrants residing here illegally the opportunity to work and participate in society.

“I don’t think we need to rush to make people here illegally citizens,” Robledo said. “They want to be able to live here and work, but not everybody wants to be a citizen.”

Heck found consensus on the SXSW panel and at Roberto’s, but in the beginning of September when the congressional recess ends, he will have to return to the House, where harmony is more elusive.

“The primary sticky issue is the pathway to earned citizenship, or legalization or documentation or whatever it may be,” Heck said. “That is where, certainly in the House, we are having the most difficulty in reaching consensus. ... That last piece that has to be addressed is what is going to be done with those in undocumented status, and there isn’t unanimity in the House.”

Las Vegas Sun: Joe Downtown: South By Southwest conference offers more than tech tips

By [Joe Schoenmann](#) ([contact](#))

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2013/aug/12/joe-downtown-south-southwest-conference-offers-mor/>

Monday, Aug. 12, 2013 | 11:53 a.m.

Tech information and life skills tips flew fast and furious at the first South By Southwest tech conference at the Cosmopolitan today.

Called [SXSW V2V](#), the conference was expected to draw about 1,500 attendees.

By 10:30 a.m., Congressman Joe Heck and [Bluefields founder Andrew Crump](#), who moved to Las Vegas from England, talked about the need for immigration reform to ensure more efficient gateways for tech workers and startups.

Another speaker talked about the importance of increasing productivity 2 percent and how this would “two ex” (which means “double”) the return on investment. To do that, one idea Paul Gu, co-founder of

[Upstart](#), said people might consider is getting clothing tailored to save the hours it might take to find clothing at a store.

Another speaker laid out in rapid-fire a litany of websites startup founders can turn to, each costing less than \$100, to test their websites on a variety of fronts.

Mark Daniel titled his talk “Silicon Valley: The New Hollywood.” Having lived in Silicon Valley for about a year, he likened Silicon Valley to Hollywood not because it’s becoming a movie studio haven. Hollywood, though, draws people who think they’re going to get there and make it big in the movies. The same is true in Silicon Valley in relation to startup founders.

“Retweets, launch parties ... private events press, invites, connections” are what many newbies think are necessary for making it, he said. “What I found is: None of this matters. ... What I found is: There are so many people with this idea that the next day you’ll wake up leading this great company and being a multibillionaire, and that’s probably the furthest thing from the truth.”

Daniel’s 12-minute talk wasn’t the exception but the rule of some presenters early on in the conference.

It’s not just being smart, having integrity and resiliency that helps people make it, Daniels added.

“It’s (still) difficult to build something decent that people want to use every day,” he said.

Daniels found the secret, hard as it might be to do.

“Look at your time as an investment and ... put as much time as possible toward what it is you want to be doing, then eliminate everything that is extraneous,” he said.

Commuting, he added, and wasting time in a car “are things taking money out of your pocket.”

“If I could give one bit of advice, it would be to be unbelievably selfish for those people you choose to spend time with, then unbelievably selfless with those people,” he said.

Dozens more speakers are scheduled to speak today through Wednesday.

Joe Schoenmann doesn’t just cover downtown, he lives and works there. Schoenmann is Greenspun Media Group’s embedded downtown journalist, working from an office in the Emergency Arts building.

My News 3 | [Heck holds immigration panel with foreign entrepreneurs](#)

LAS VEGAS (KSNV MyNews3) -- Congressman Joe Heck is on the strip today, leading a panel discussion on immigration.

Heck was flanked by foreign-born tech-based entrepreneurs who detailed for the congressman how difficult it was to come to the U.S. and start a business. They also spoke about the difficulties they faced in hiring anyone from outside the U.S. to work at their business.

The panel was held with the intention of giving these entrepreneurs a voice on how the United States’ immigration system is hurting American business by driving foreign entrepreneurs away from the U.S. and to other countries.

The main complaint made was that while other countries are opening their arms and welcoming tech

workers and foreign entrepreneurs, the U.S. is wait-listing many of them.

Congressman Heck seemed to agree with that sentiment, quoting figures from 2011 that stated that the U.S. was only granting 12 percent of its green cards to high-tech workers and entrepreneurs, whereas other high-tech countries grant closer than 60 percent of its green cards to such workers.

The congressman went on to say that the lack of tech workers can be felt even right here in Southern Nevada.

“We have critical needs that we’re not able to meet here locally with graduates from not only within our state, but from within the country,” Heck said. “And when you look at the I.T. sector, which is one of the Governor’s cluster areas of emphasis to try to grow and diversify our economy, we just can’t meet the demand.”

Back in late June, the senate passed a sweeping immigration reform bill, but house Republicans have expressed a desire to tackle the reforms with a piecemeal approach.

Washington Post | [A bit more movement on immigration reform](#)

Here’s GOP Rep. Joe Heck of Nevada, at a forum on immigration reform, endorsing a path to citizenship and calling the Senate bill “reasonable”:

Heck said:

“I believe that the pathway that the Senate bill has laid out is a reasonable pathway. I think when you look at having to go through background checks, having to pay a fine, having to make sure that your tax liabilities are paid, making sure that you’re in a provisional status for a period of time, where you have to learn English, you have to show that you’ve got a job — there’s a lot of safeguards here.

“You’ve got to show that you’ve got a job making a certain amount of money, that you’re not likely to become a public charge — all those kinds of things before you’re even eligible for the green card. Then, when you apply for the green card, you have to go through that whole process again.”

Some folks will probably dismiss the significance of this, since Heck represents a district that went for Obama in 2012. But Obama won there by less than one point, and at any rate, this isn’t necessarily that easy a stance. He faced grief from his own constituents over his support for reform at a town hall last month. Heck has endorsed comprehensive reform before, but his office says it’s the first time he’s done so on video before such a large audience.

Other Republicans in Obama districts who have embraced comprehensive reform during the recess include Reps. Dave Reichert of Washington State, who pushed back on a conservative radio host’s arguments point by point, and Jeff Denham of California, who chastised the House GOP leadership for failing to act on the Senate bill.

House Republicans like Aaron Schock and Daniel Webster have not gone as far, instead endorsing some form of legalization while (crucially) signaling a recognition of the need to do something about the country’s 11 million undocumented immigrants. But even that counts as progress. Immigration reform’s hopes turn heavily on whether Republicans will grapple with the issue at all, as opposed to spewing “amnesty amnesty amnesty” and other talking points designed to shut down debate rather than engage it. What the recess has plainly shown so far is a willingness — a scattered one, perhaps, but a willingness nonetheless — to grapple with the issue.

The question, at a bare minimum, is whether House Republicans want to find a way politically to get from their previously entrenched position — that any kind of legalization constitutes rewarding lawbreakers — to supporting a process that would bring the 11 million out of the shadows with enough conditions attached that their voters can accept it. (And yes, there's reason to believe even Republican voters are willing to accept comprehensive reform with enough conditions attached, once they are engaged enough to admit that the status quo is untenable by their own lights.) Having even a few House Republicans going all the way to the point where they're embracing the pathway in the Senate bill in these terms — as Heck does above — can only help, and raises the possibility that the debate may be edging in reform's direction.

UPDATE: Some folks have rightly pointed out that Heck has previously said he'd vote against the Senate bill. And that's true — he has concerns about a comprehensive bill and about some of the border security aspects of the Senate approach. But none of this changes the basic point: Heck supports a pathway to citizenship and sees the Senate model for that as reasonable — which contains the seeds of consensus and indeed represents a level of engagement on the issue that goes above and beyond what Dems had hoped to hear from House Republicans.

LVRJ (Sebelius) | [Where are the national greatness conservatives?](http://slashpolitics.reviewjournal.com/2013/08/12/where-are-the-national-greatness-conservatives/)

<http://slashpolitics.reviewjournal.com/2013/08/12/where-are-the-national-greatness-conservatives/>

America is losing out on some of the world's top talent in high-tech startups and entrepreneurs, because of a broken and backlogged immigration system.

That was the message coming out of the first panel discussion at the South by Southwest V2V event, taking place today, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Cosmopolitan hotel in Las Vegas.

Panelists included U.S. Rep. **Joe Heck**, who said easing the way for tech entrepreneurs and venture capitalists to immigrate to the United States should be a top priority of the immigration reform bill now pending in Congress. "This one is probably one of the most important [votes] to our country," Heck said after the event.

Asked why some conservatives would block immigration reform even if it would ease the way toward keeping America the global leader in high-tech innovation, Heck said a bill aimed only at tech-oriented immigrants and venture capitalists would probably pass quickly and without the opposition that has plagued the recently passed comprehensive Senate reform bill.

Heck said the "pathway to citizenship" portion of the Senate bill is the source of disagreement in his Republican caucus. (Heck himself says he supports the pathway to citizenship outlined in the Senate bill, a position that earned him kind words from panel moderator **Mark Falzone**, deputy director of the National Immigration Forum. (The panel was sponsored by the forum's [Bibles, Badges and Business immigration reform organization](#), which seeks to bring more heartland Republicans into the reform effort.)

Panelists **Andrew Crump**, **Scott Allison** and **Alex Torrenegra** — immigrants all — shared stories of dealing with an unresponsive, expensive bureaucracy when trying to start tech businesses in the United States, still the recognized world leader when it comes to startups and venture capital.

But all three said the U.S. is losing good people — and high-paying jobs — to foreign countries that are making immigration systems easier to navigate.

Crump said he's had to spend \$50,000 on flights, immigration lawyers and application fees for himself and fellow employees of his start-up, spending the first three months working on immigration issues alone. "It's not been a fun process," he said. Part of the problem is that there are no immigration visa programs specifically for entrepreneurs.

Allison, who was drawn to Las Vegas by the Downtown Project and the [Vegas Tech Fund](#), said he could start a business in America, but couldn't legally work for it. The "startup ecosystem" found in Las Vegas — marrying pockets of high-tech innovation and venture capital — is being replicated in other countries where the immigration barriers are not so high, Allison said.

Torrenegra was born in Colombia, and worked fast-food jobs in America while pursuing his tech dreams, said he started a company at the same time he was being told he needed to return to Colombia. He ended up marrying a United States citizen and staying. But he says immigration rules recently led him to hire five people based in South America, jobs that otherwise would have come to the United States.

Heck agreed that the immigration system doesn't reflect the country's current economic needs, noting Israel and India were top competitors to the United States when it comes to high technology jobs and innovation. "If we don't let them create it here in the United States, they'll create it somewhere else," he said.

Heck also defended himself from Democratic criticism [over a recent vote](#) to deny funding to President **Barack Obama's** administration for [an executive order that allows the children of illegal immigrants to avoid deportation](#) if they pursue an education or military service. Heck said Obama's order — which mirrors the DREAM Act that failed to pass in the Senate in 2010 — exceeded the president's authority.

"It was political pandering three months before the [2012] election," Heck said.

- See more at: <http://slashpolitics.reviewjournal.com/2013/08/12/where-are-the-national-greatness-conservatives/#sthash.fntCoonp.dpuf>

Ralston Reports: Heck: Will he or won't he on immigration reform?

Submitted by jon.ralston on Mon, 08/12/2013 - 17:37

<http://www.ralstonreports.com/blog/heck-will-he-or-wont-he-immigration-reform#.Ugpfnm2Tp8E>

Earlier today, The Washington Post's liberal blogger, Greg Sargent, [seemed quite excited](#) by Rep. Joe Heck's pro-immigration reform remarks at a SXSW panel in Las Vegas.

But I am one of those Sargent describes who "will probably dismiss the significance of this, since Heck represents a district that went for Obama in 2012." Yes, and for other reasons, too, including: He's said it before. And to The Washington Post!

But there's more:

► Sargent is right that this is less interesting because Heck is in one of the top targeted districts in the country and expected to carefully calibrate his position. But it's more than that — the Hispanic population of CD3 is 16 percent and the Asian population is 15 percent. Heck knows immigration reform matters as an issue in the district. He can't be Steve King.

► Sargent acknowledges that Heck has said it before, but emphasizes that this was a bigger audience. (Heck is one of those rare pols who doesn't tailor his message very well, which drives some of his consultants batty.) Sargent's colleague, Ed O'Keefe, found out where Heck was on this issue [more than a month ago](#). "I think there are reasonable steps that the Senate bill puts into place," Heck told O'Keefe of a path to citizenship, almost exactly what he said today. And O'Keefe extracted a lot of detail from Heck, whom he noted knows the issue inside and out, on what he likes and doesn't like.

► Generally, Heck is not a hard guy to read, although some might say he is too dogmatic, pedantic even. And I bet some of his advisers are driven crazy by what the congressman thinks is a logical stance but one that is politically precarious. Good case in point: His vote [in June](#) for the aforementioned Mr. King's bill to deport the DREAMers by cutting off the program the president initiated dueling his re-election bid. One transparent political move deserves another? Heck could very well reason that this was the wrong approach by the president, that Obama should have waited for congressional enactment of the DREAM Act and so on. But he has now created an issue -- out of stubbornness? -- that the Left will pound him on from now until November 2014.

► Sargent sounds an optimistic note for reform when he writes, "Having even a few House Republicans going all the way to the point where they're embracing the pathway in the Senate bill in these terms -- as Heck does above -- can only help, and raises the possibility that the debate may be edging in reform's direction." Well...maybe. As I said, this is not a recess-town-hall conversion for Heck. He's been here for awhile, whether you believe it's pandering because of his district or how he really feels. The real issue here is process. Heck has said he opposes the Senate bill because of the border enforcement provisions, as have other Republicans, and a few other items. But here's what I think: If the Senate bill came to the floor, Heck would vote for it, despite what he says now. I can hear it: "I don't like all of what's in this bill, but considering how important this is to...." But we'll never know. So now Heck is stuck hoping his leaders will figure out a way to get him some YES votes on reform that he can brag about next year....

► After he posted, Sargent clearly got some pushback from liberals, who pound Heck almost daily in that key district. He posted an update reminding folks Heck opposes the Senate bill -- and if you don't support that legislation, you must be against immigration reform, right? But then Sargent pushed back on the whiners by saying Heck's position "contains the seeds of consensus and indeed represents a level of engagement on the issue that goes above and beyond what Dems had hoped to hear from House Republicans." (Liberal blogger defends conservative congressman! Stop the presses!)

Those who want immigration reform -- including groups such as the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada that loves to hate Heck -- won't be satisfied, no matter what the congressman says or does. But Heck declared Monday, and he has said before, that he favors a path to citizenship.

The only question is whether he will ever get a chance to prove it.

WHITE HOUSE BLOG: Bipartisan Support for Immigration Reform Strengthens During August Recess

As members of Congress go home to their districts for the August recess, they are hearing directly from Americans of all political stripes who are calling for a vote on commonsense immigration reform. In hundreds of town hall meetings, business roundtables, vigils, pilgrimages and rallies across the country, supporters of immigration reform including evangelicals, business owners, labor and law enforcement leaders, are asking their representatives to pass legislation to fix our broken immigration system as soon as they return to Washington in September.

Pro-reform supporters are making waves across the country as they continue to build momentum for immigration reform. The broad coalition of constituents who support reform is stronger and more bipartisan than ever. They have a clear message: Congress must work to fix our immigration system as soon as members return to the Capitol this fall.

In a [meeting last week with the Modesto Chamber of Commerce](#), Representative Jeff Denham, a Republican lawmaker from California, expressed his support for moving commonsense immigration reform legislation in the House: "I thought we'd get this done before the August work period. I think the Senate made tremendous progress. It was done bipartisan [sic] and I thought that would be enough to get the House moving forward."

Both Senator Richard Durbin and Representative Bill Foster, Democratic lawmakers from Illinois, [met with local Aurora business and community leaders](#) to talk about the Senate's bipartisan immigration reform bill, describing it as a "compromise" and stating that comprehensive legislation must include a "tough but fair" path to citizenship.

During [a discussion with other Republican governors in Aspen, Colorado](#) during the last week of July, Republican New Jersey Governor Chris Christie voiced support for immigration reform "Allowing the system to continue in the broken way that it is now is negative for America's economy and it's also bad for these folks who now have had children in this country and some of them grandchildren in this country," which demonstrates that support for immigration reform comes from both sides of the political aisle.

This is just a snapshot of the meetings that lawmakers are having with their constituents all over the U.S – the message is clear, a majority of Americans want to see their Representative address the issue of immigration reform.

Events discussing the positive economic benefits for immigration reform continue to take place across the country. Just today, the [Bibles, Badges and Business](#) kicked off a South by Southwest (SXSW) conference with a panel of CEOs to discuss the importance of immigration reform to the business community. This panel, attended by over 1,500 tech entrepreneurs is part of an ongoing discussion on how immigration reform will help grow our economy and create jobs.

The White House and the Administration are also part of the growing chorus of voices making the case for commonsense immigration reform. Last week, U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker [hosted a roundtable](#) with business leaders in Des Moines, Iowa to highlight the economic benefits of fixing our immigration system.

This summer, the White House released a series of reports that add to the mounting evidence demonstrating that fixing our immigration system and creating an earned path to citizenship would add a big boost to our economy, strengthen Social Security, and modernize our legal immigration system to make it more consistent with our values. Reports include the [economic case for immigration reform](#), detailing how it [impacts each state](#) as well as the [agricultural community](#).

As support continues to grow from the American people, the White House and the President will support bipartisan efforts in the House of Representatives to pass this commonsense legislation as soon as possible.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/08/12/bipartisan-support-immigration-reform-strengthens-during-august-recess>

BLOOMBERG: App Makers Woo lawmakers as SXSW Conference Tackles Immigration

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-12/app-makers-woo-lawmakers-as-sxsw-conference-tackles-immigration.html>

Douglas MacMillian

Bloomberg

As entrepreneurs and venture capitalists swilled beer and swapped business cards at a technology conference in Austin, [Texas](#), [Kevin Callahan](#) hunkered down March 9 for a closed-door meeting with Senator Jerry Moran.

Callahan, co-founder of app startup MapMyFitness Inc., was one of a few dozen attendees of the South by Southwest Interactive Festival -- including a Microsoft Corp. representative -- who were invited to discuss issues, including patent reform and immigration, with the Kansas Republican.

The South By Southwest Interactive Festival is known as a conference where startups vie to host the most popular parties by hiring famous pop music acts and carting VIPs to remote destinations in limousines.

March 12 (Bloomberg) -- David Kirkpatrick, author of "The Facebook Effect," talks about the redesign of Facebook Inc.'s News Feed and the South by Southwest Interactive Festival in Austin, Texas. Kirkpatrick speaks with Tom Keene, Scarlet Fu and Sara Eisen on Bloomberg Television's "Surveillance."

Attendees work on startup projects at the South By Southwest Interactive Festival in Austin.
Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

"It's helpful to know I can start contributing to the conversation now so that 3 years, 5 years, 10 years down the line, the political factors are less of an issue in trying to grow my business and contribute to my little slice of the American economy," Callahan, 36, said in an interview.

Tech's mounting interest in shaping public policy was on display at South by Southwest, where industry executives including AOL Inc. co-founder [Steve Case](#) and Tesla Motors Inc. Chief Executive Officer [Elon Musk](#) advocated for more cooperation between Washington and Silicon Valley.

"The next generation of disruptive companies are going to have to figure out how to interact with the government," Case, now the CEO of investment firm Revolution LLC, said in an interview at the event.

Areas such as education, health care and transportation will be transformed by "a lot of the great innovations over the next decade," he said, and "government is the largest buyer of those services."

Focused Discussion

Suited politicians such as Moran and California Republican Representative [Darrell Issa](#), both panelists at the conference, stood out amid the Austin Convention Center's swarm of t-shirt- and-jeans-wearing technophiles. Their attendance underscored the rising influence of the technology industry among policymakers eager to create jobs.

While South by Southwest has played host to discussions about federal and local government in past years, participants at this year's gathering struck a more urgent tone in seeking legislation around

specific issues, said Mike McGeary, political director and senior strategist at [Engine Advocacy](#), a San Francisco-based nonprofit group that urges closer ties between entrepreneurs and the government.

“There’s a lot more focused discussion this year on particular issues, as opposed to politics generally,” said McGeary, whose group advocates for issues affecting tech companies as varied as review site Yelp Inc. and Uber Technologies Inc., a mobile app that helps people find rides.

Immigration Proposal

McGeary helped organize the private session with Senator Moran, who covered such topics as the industry’s desire to ease restrictions on hiring highly skilled immigrants, Callahan said.

Moran, who also met with business leaders at last year’s SXSW conference, said this year’s group was more knowledgeable about issues and came prepared with more questions and ideas.

“A year ago, it was, ‘How do we get engaged?’ Moran said in an interview. “This year, it was much more, ‘We’ve been working hard, we are connecting with policy makers in [Washington](#) D.C. What issues should we be paying most attention to?’”

Moran sought support for Startup Act 3.0, proposed [legislation](#) to reform the immigration process for highly skilled workers.

Among attendees of the meeting with Moran were Tim O’Reilly, founder and CEO of O’Reilly Media, Inc. and Andrew Rasiej, chairman of the [NY Tech Meetup](#). Topics discussed included policies aimed at training more engineers in U.S. schools.

Party Alternative

For Callahan, the meeting and other technology policy discussions provided respite from the booze-soaked networking rituals that pervade South By Southwest, a conference where startups vie to host the most popular parties by hiring famous pop music acts and carting VIPs to remote destinations in limousines.

This year’s festivities included a party sponsored by Path Inc. and Spotify Ltd. that featured the rock group [Jane’s Addiction](#). Founders Fund LLC hosted a barbecue at an Austin mansion known as [Britannia Manor](#).

“South By is great because you’re drinking from a fire hose of ideas and inspiration,” Callahan said. “But then you’re also getting blasted by the fire hose of the booze and the partying.”

Calls for political change also came from several of the festival’s most high-caliber speakers. Musk said he’s working with government officials to build a rocket-launch station for his company, Space Exploration Technologies Corp., and former U.S. Vice President [Al Gore](#) advocated measures to protect the freedom of [Internet users](#) around the world.

Crowdfunding Oversight

Case spoke about the promise of crowdfunding, a practice of capital-raising for startups that he expects to benefit from the oversight of the Securities & Exchange Commission. He also recruited participants for [The March for Innovation](#), an online event he helped organize to push lawmakers to pass immigration reform.

As tech startups grow and take on new markets, events like South by Southwest will need to adapt and provide forums for a broader range of knowledge, Case said in the interview.

“There’s going to be a little bit of a maturing of Silicon Valley,” he said. “As they move beyond the Internet per se, and building Internet companies, to innovate and disrupt other aspects of our lives and other facets of our economy, there is going to be a need to come up to speed with how governments work.”

North Carolina

NEWS 14 CAROLINA: Former secretary of Homeland Security calls for immigration reform

By Julie Fertig

September 10, 2013

<http://charlotte.news14.com/content/news/triangle/699357/former-secretary-of-homeland-security-calls-for-immigration-reform>

RALEIGH — Former Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff is calling for immigration reform.

During the Bipartisan Policy Center’s forum in Raleigh Tuesday, Chertoff urged Congress to take action. “Match jobs that need to be filled with people who want to fill them,” said Chertoff.

Chertoff told the packed house at North Carolina’s Farm Bureau that he wants Congress to take action and fix immigration reform to allow immigrants to fill jobs that many Americans are not interested in. Chertoff said reform would also benefit U.S. employers as well.

“They’re not jobs that Americans are clamoring to do, whether it’s picking lettuce or cleaning hotel rooms,” said Chertoff.

Just last week North Carolina lawmakers voted to override Gov. McCrory’s veto on legislation allowing farmers to hire immigrant workers for longer periods of time. The legislation extends the period for exemption from E-Verify from 90 days to nine months. Still, some lawmakers feel more action needs to happen.

“If the national Congress doesn’t resolve this fully, it’s going to continue to fall to the states to continue to find interim solutions in our state in a bi-partisan way,” said Rep. Rick Glazier, D-Cumberland.

Chertoff is urging Congress to increase the number of visas that are available and the number of green cards the are available for students. The North Carolina farming community supports his plans.

“I was in the mountains of North Carolina yesterday and the apple growers up there were telling me that they were 40 percent short on workers to pick this year’s apple crop. There’s just not enough labor,” said Larry Wooten, North Carolina’s Farm Bureau president.

Many farmers feel immigrants are crucial to their business.

“They are the life blood of the business. If we don’t have these people, we would be out of business,” said Bert Lemkes, a horticulture business owner in western North Carolina.

Chertoff believes national action would be a win for both immigrant workers and business owners.

Chertoff said immigration reform could be put on the back burner as Congress focuses on the situation in Syria and the budget.

Also ran in:

CAPITOL REPORT NORTH CAROLINA:

<http://capitoltonight.news14.com/2013/09/10/former-secretary-of-homeland-security-calls-for-immigration-reform/>

CHARLOTTE CITY AND PRESS

<http://charlotte.cityandpress.com/node/6776509>

LA CONEXIÓN: Empresarios, restaurantes y hoteles, agricultores y líderes de fe de Carolina del Norte, reclaman la reforma

POR Walter Gómez y Paola Jaramillo

September 11, 2013

<http://www.laconexionusa.com/content/empresarios-restaurantes-y-hoteles-agricultores-y-l%C3%ADderes-de-fe-de-carolina-del-norte>

RALEIGH- La petición, urgencia y necesidad de una reforma migratoria es unánime. Empresarios, representantes del gremio de restaurantes y hoteles, agricultores y líderes de fe, aprovecharon la visita a Raleigh del exsecretario del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional Michael Chertoff, para pedir que el Congreso la apruebe este año.

“El 70% de los trabajadores del campo son indocumentados y debido al programa de verificación de empleo E-Verify en Carolina del Norte estamos con las manos atadas. Éste no funciona para nosotros”, dijo Bert Lemkes, copropietario de Van Wingerden International, INC una compañía de horticultura ubicada en Mills River (Carolina del Norte). Este año, muchos de nuestros colegas se quedaron cortos, por ejemplo se ha perdido el 40% de la producción de las manzanas porque no hay quien las recoja. Los indocumentados pagan nuestro Seguro Social, impuestos y son ciudadanos de bien, es nuestro deber presionar al Congreso”, mencionó.

“El negocio de los restaurantes se estima que crecerá 13% en Carolina del Norte, es una fuerte y gran industria nacional que necesita de la mano de obra migrante. Hay mucha desinformación entre la gente y necesitamos una pronta reforma migratoria”, mencionó Whitney Christenses, abogada de la Asociación de Restaurantes y Hoteles de Carolina del Norte. Estas, fueron las voces de dos panelistas que representan a cientos de negocios y empresarios, presentes en un evento llevado a cabo ayer en Raleigh y copatrocinado por el grupo proreforma denominado en inglés como “Bibles, Badges y Business” (BBB), la Asociación de Granjeros de Carolina del Norte y el Centro Bipartidistas de Políticas (BPC). Como panelistas también estuvieron invitados, Raudel Hernández de la iglesia Summit y Charles Kuck abogado en Atlanta, quien sirvió como presidente de la Asociación Nacional de Abogados Americanos de Inmigración (AILA).

Para Larry Wooten, presidente de NC Farm Bureau, la necesidad de una reforma no solo es económica para el país y el estado, sino también sacar de las sombras a los que ya viven aquí. “La reforma migratoria es más que conversar sobre visas y verificación, es sobre la manera en que tratamos a los que viven aquí. Mi esperanza esta tarde, es que el Congreso continúe empujando el asunto y arregle pronto el sistema roto de inmigración”, apuntó.

De acuerdo con Kuck, es el momento apropiado para aprobar la reforma migratoria. “Hemos invertido millones en la frontera. Si aprobamos la reforma, tendremos más seguridad, mejores trabajos y salarios, pero todos necesitamos estar involucrados, llamar a los representantes y salir a votar”, señaló.

En octubre

El exsecretario Chertoff está en el mismo camino y dijo a La Conexión, que lo más probable es que la reforma migratoria llegue al piso de la Cámara de Representantes en octubre. “Creo que tan pronto se resuelva el tema de presupuesto veremos reales posibilidades”. Chertoff forma parte de la Mesa Trabajo de Inmigración del BPC, una organización sin fines de lucro conformada por miembros de ambos partidos políticos que promueve soluciones a los problemas a través del diálogo.

El grupo acordó el pasado mes de agosto una serie de principios y recomendaciones en cuatro áreas claves. Estas incluyen el control del flujo de inmigrantes no autorizados en el país, legalización y ciudadanía, inmigración legal, y el impacto económico de un cambio de las leyes.

Chertoff aunque reconoce la urgencia, señaló que sería un “grave error”, que el Gobierno de Obama otorgue un alivio administrativo para suspender las deportaciones. “Entiendo que lo de los ‘dreamers’ (acción diferida) fue una decisión humanitaria, pero para los desconfiados esto reivindica su escepticismo”, anotó.

Finalmente para Chertoff, los oponentes a la reforma deben estar convencidos que el Gobierno cumplirá con lo pactado una vez que otorguen la legalización, lo que incluye seguridad adicional en la frontera con más agentes en la patrulla fronteriza y monitoreo a las empresa para asegurar que contratan a trabajadores legales.

LA CONEXIÓN: Exsecretario de Seguridad Nacional estima discusión de reforma para octubre

September 11, 2013

<http://www.laconexionusa.com/content/exsecretario-de-seguridad-nacional-estima-discusi%C3%B3n-de-reforma-para-octubre>

EFEUSA- El exsecretario de Seguridad Nacional Michael Chertoff consideró necesario crear un sistema migratorio justo para los que cumplan las leyes y que responda a las necesidades económicas de trabajadores extranjeros.

"Este es el momento de presionar a los legisladores para que discutan la reforma de las leyes de inmigración y el público debe enviar un mensaje a los legisladores, de que se les paga para llegar a un acuerdo", afirmó Chertoff en Raleigh, capital de Carolina del Norte.

Chertoff estimó que el debate en la Cámara de Representantes sobre la reforma migratoria comenzaría en octubre luego de Siria y el presupuesto.

El funcionario de la Administración del expresidente George Bush, quien fuera el negociador principal de la fallida reforma migratoria de 2007, presentó a los miembros de la alianza Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform (BBB) y del North Carolina Farm Bureau, su perspectiva sobre el actual debate migratorio.

"La diferencia entre el 2007 y 2013 es que ahora existe una coalición de organizaciones que respalda la posibilidad de encontrar una solución, lo que falta es crear un ambiente de confianza que el Gobierno cumplirá con lo acordado", destacó.

Según Chertoff, los oponentes a la reforma deben estar convencidos que el Gobierno cumplirá con lo pactado una vez que otorguen la legalización, lo que incluye seguridad adicional en la frontera con más agentes en la patrulla fronteriza y monitoreo a las empresas para asegurar que contratan a trabajadores legales.

Chertoff forma parte de la Mesa Trabajo de Inmigración del Centro Bipartidista de Políticas (BPC), una organización sin fines de lucro conformada por miembros de ambos partidos políticos y que promueve soluciones a los problemas a través del diálogo.

El grupo acordó el pasado mes de agosto una serie de principios y recomendaciones en cuatro áreas claves para que los legisladores puedan coincidir durante el debate migratorio.

Estas incluyen el control del flujo de inmigrantes no autorizados en el país, legalización y ciudadanía, inmigración legal, y el impacto económico de un cambio de las leyes.

"Hay que crear un sistema para ampliar el número de visas para que las compañías puedan traer a empleados extranjeros que necesiten de manera legal, tanto para hacer trabajos del campo como tecnológicos", apuntó.

Para Chertoff, ningún inmigrante no autorizado debería recibir su tarjeta de residencia hasta que otros, que esperan por su visa fuera del país, la obtengan; pero favoreció otorgar un "estatus temporal" -como el que el Gobierno otorga actualmente a los centroamericanos (TPS)- hasta que "paguen las penalidades y se pongan a la orden del día".

"La gente no se va a autodeportar", resaltó Chertoff. "Sin embargo, mantener el estatus quo no es una opción y no podemos darnos el lujo de esperar".

Larry Wooten, presidente del North Carolina Farm Bureau, dijo que el Congreso debe dar prioridad al tema migratorio lo antes posible, "porque los agricultores necesitan asegurar la mano de obra para sus cosechas".

"Es de suma importancia para Carolina del Norte arreglar el sistema quebrantado de inmigración, por eso estamos recordando a los congresistas la necesidad de resolver este asunto para el 2013", enfatizó. Carolina del Norte es uno de los principales estados agrícolas de EE.UU., que aporta a la economía unos 71 billones de dólares anuales y emplea al 17 % de los trabajadores del estado, de los cuales el 85 % son migrantes hispanos, entre documentados e indocumentados.

El estado sureño es líder nacional en la producción de tabaco, papa dulce y árboles de Navidad, superando a zonas agrarias como Kentucky, California y Tennessee, y además es el mayor empleador de migrantes bajo el programa de visas de trabajo H-2A.

"Nadie está buscando irse a Rusia pero sí venir a Estados Unidos porque es el mejor país del mundo", concluyó Chertoff.

NEWS & OBSERVER (North Carolina) (Chertoff Op-Ed): A chance for a fair, but realistic reform of US immigration

By Michael Chertoff

September 9, 2013

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/09/09/3180594/a-chance-for-a-fair-but-realistic.html>

Any new immigration system must be fair to those who have conscientiously obeyed our laws, must have a greater focus on matching our economic needs with workers from abroad and have greater accountability: In such a reformed system, stricter penalties will be justified when businesses of any size choose to disobey the law and hire workers here illegally.

Reforming our nation's broken immigration system is not only a critical national priority, it also is important to the future of North Carolina.

According to recent estimates, there are more than 370,000 unauthorized immigrants living today in the Tar Heel state. From 1990 to 2010, the number of unauthorized immigrants in North Carolina rose more than 11 fold, one of the steepest increases in the nation.

North Carolina attracts many immigrants who come through legal means. The Research Triangle Park, the state's world-class universities and its vibrant agricultural economy function as powerful magnets of opportunity. Over the years, North Carolina residents have welcomed these individuals and have benefited from their many contributions.

Nevertheless, the challenges facing our immigration system are substantial and growing. More than 11 million unauthorized immigrants live and work among us without the ability to fully participate in our society. Control of the country's borders remains unfinished despite much progress to improve border enforcement. We continue to see substantial numbers of visitors who enter the country legally but overstay their visas.

On top of these concerns, our legal immigration system is inadequate to meet the needs of a dynamic, 21st century economy. After years of complacency and false hopes, we must finally come to grips with these problems and design effective, durable solutions.

As a member of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Immigration Task Force, I am heartened to see Congress considering immigration reform. To encourage this process, the task force has developed a set of principles that demonstrate there is plenty of common ground on which a final deal can be struck.

Like many in Congress, the task force acknowledges that improving border security is a central concern. The recent bill passed by the U.S. Senate authorized the hiring of 20,000 new Border Patrol agents, the construction of 700 miles of additional border fencing and the use of more unmanned aerial vehicles to detect illegal border crossings. As the legislative process unfolds, we look forward to other proposals to strengthen our border-enforcement capabilities.

But it is a common misconception that most unauthorized immigrants sneak across our Southern border with Mexico. In fact, almost half of the unauthorized immigrants currently residing in the U.S. came here legally but overstayed their visas and never left. Today, we cannot fully verify whether temporary visitors leave the country before their visas expire.

Going forward, we must put in place scientifically valid measures to assess the extent to which the government is controlling the flow of unauthorized immigration both at the border and within the country by those overstaying their visas. The results of these assessments should be subject to an independent audit and published periodically. Stronger measurement systems and greater transparency should improve the performance of and enhance confidence in our nation's immigration-enforcement officials.

Any new immigration system must be fair to those who have conscientiously obeyed our laws. With the exception of individuals brought to the U.S. as children, no unauthorized immigrants should receive a green card until the applications of those who have already applied for visas and have been waiting patiently outside the country have been fully processed.

Our nation's legal immigration system must be strengthened with a greater focus on matching our economic needs with workers from abroad, both highly skilled and low skilled. A more nimble, flexible system that identifies those sectors of the economy where true labor shortages exist and allows legal immigrants promptly to meet the demand for qualified workers is squarely in our national interest.

But with increased flexibility comes greater accountability: In such a reformed system, stricter penalties will be justified when businesses of any size choose to disobey the law and hire workers here illegally.

With respect to the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. today, doing nothing is not an option. In fact, maintaining the status quo amounts to an amnesty program without the legal formalities.

Consistent with American traditions of fairness and rule of law, it is possible to develop a system that allows undocumented immigrants to pay penalties, pass a background check and fully comply with other requirements to have the opportunity to apply eventually for citizenship.

With immigration reform in sight, our nation's leaders must put aside any partisan, political considerations and work diligently to narrow their differences. There are plenty of good ideas on the table. It is now time to put them to work for the American people.

Michael Chertoff, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is a member of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Immigration Task Force.

NEWS & OBSERVER (North Carolina): Chertoff makes push for immigration change in Raleigh

By Josh Shaffer

September 10, 2013

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/09/10/3183861/chertoff-makes-push-for-immigration.html>

RALEIGH — Former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff urged an immigration policy overhaul while in Raleigh on Tuesday, calling for a compromise that increases border security and toughens regulation while giving undocumented workers a chance at citizenship.

Chertoff, who served in President George W. Bush's Cabinet, described a broken system. He said until now, proposals to change the way the United States deals with foreign workers have been dismissed as "amnesty," but that meaningful reform is now possible to the benefit of the economy, national security and human decency.

"This time, I think there's a broad coalition," Chertoff said at a forum put on by the N.C. Farm Bureau.

"The concern about an amnesty is not as strong anymore because people realize this is not an amnesty."

The former secretary spoke as the U.S. House mulls immigration reform with tentative plans to take up the issue in October. A bill similar to Chertoff's proposal has already cleared the Senate, providing a 13-year road to citizenship.

Chertoff pushed for a plan that would put new high-technology security measures in place along with more border agents. It would add a more secure, sophisticated employee verification system, making status easier to check.

Notably, it would allow workers in the country illegally to apply for citizenship provided they pass background checks and pay fines associated with breaking previous immigration laws. These workers would be processed after immigrants who followed the law, and they could be granted temporary status that would be renewable.

"Those folks would definitely be paying their dues for coming here," said Raudel Hernandez, pastor of Summit en Espanol and a panelist Tuesday. "This is a pathway that doesn't exist."

As it stands, Chertoff said, law enforcement officers targeting illegal immigrants spend most of their time and strained budget chasing people who only want to work hard and feed their families as gardeners or housekeepers — not dangerous criminals.

At the same time, major industries in the United States rely on immigrant labor to fill low-skilled and low-paying jobs. Taking those laborers out of the market, especially in agriculture, risks sending those jobs to Mexico. Workers who can pass eligibility hurdles such as E-verify can't do the work, and those who fail them do it very well, said Bert Lemkes, co-owner of the North Carolina-based horticultural business Van Wingerden International.

"Seventy percent of the labor force in agriculture is undocumented," said Lemkes, also a panelist. "The other 30 percent will lose their jobs if the other 70 percent doesn't show up anymore."

Third, Chertoff said, roughly 11 million undocumented workers inhabit the country with no plans to leave. Foreign students earn graduate degrees in the United States and leave with them. In Raleigh, Chertoff proposed a legal channel for immigrants who want to work and employers who want to hire them.

"You can't repeal the laws of economics," he said, "and the fundamental law of economics are supply and demand."

Raleigh News & Observer: Under the Dome Morning Memo

http://projects.newsobserver.com/under_the_dome/morning_memo_gop_faces_messy_veto_politics_as_eyes_focus_on_tillis#storylink=cpy

ELLMERS TO JOIN IMMIGRATION FORUM: The organization Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network will hold an event Thursday that features U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers, a Dunn Republican. The group is pushing the immigration plan in the U.S. House. The event will take place at noon at Sagebrush Restaurant in Dunn.

Rep. Ellmers Press Release: Ellmers Meets To Discuss Immigration Enforcement and Reform

<http://ellmers.house.gov/latest-news/ellmers-meets-to-discuss-immigration-enforcement-and-reform/>

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Renee Ellmers (R-NC-02) released the following statement after her lunch discussion today on immigration and border security:

"This afternoon I was encouraged to meet with local leaders to discuss our current immigration policies and meaningful reforms that will be more in line with the realities facing millions of undocumented people. I believe that we must begin this debate by listening and then having a discussion so that we can understand the issue from all sides. I remain convinced that our first priority is to enforce the law and protect our borders so that we know who is entering our country. At the same time, we need to address the millions of people who are already in this country and formulate a process for them to earn legal work status. Immigration reform is essential to building a healthy, growing American economy and I'm excited to continue this discussion as we begin debating the next steps in Washington."

This afternoon, Congresswoman Renee Ellmers participated in a group discussion on immigration policies and border security in Dunn, North Carolina. She met with State Representative David Lewis, Linda Andrews of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, Cathy O'Dell of the Dunn Chamber of Commerce, and other local leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to move forward with common sense immigration policies and reform that will both focus on national security and also explore pathways to legal status.

Ohio

Dayton Daily News: Discussion on immigration reform

<http://www.mydaytondailynews.com/news/news/local/discussion-on-immigration-reform/nZHPj/>

Posted: 3:41 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013

Dayton —

The public is invited to a round-table discussion and presentation on immigration reform hosted by the Bibles, Badges and Business Network from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, in the basement of the St. Mary Catholic Church, 310 Allen St. in Dayton.

The free event will include information about Senate Immigration Bill 744 and presentations by local leaders on the importance of immigration reform in this region. Speakers include: Sister Maria Stacey, director for Hispanic Catholic Ministries; Cathy Shanklin, director for Dayton Area Dialogue on Race Relations; David Larson, immigration attorney with Altick and Corwin; Richard Biehl, Dayton chief of police; Pastor Jose Jones, College Hill Community Presbyterian Church; and Carl Ruby from the network.

For more information, contact Ruby at carl@carlruby.com or 937-305-9068. STAFF REPORT

WYSO 91.3: Organizations Roundtable Immigration Discussion

By [Jerry Kenney](#)

<http://www.wyso.org/post/organizations-roundtable-immigration-discussion>

With Congress in recess and many congressmen returning to their home districts, activist groups are taking steps to get their attention. WYSO's Jerry Kenney reports on one groups efforts.

Hoping to get the attention of Congressman Michael Turner of Ohio's 10th district - The Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network held a roundtable discussion that featured local faith leaders, law enforcement, and members of the business community.

Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl, took part in Monday's discussion, believes reforms should include secure borders, employer accountability says that legal immigration process should be "a national priority," adding that "a system that denies one timely access is no system is at all."

The Ohio Highway Patrol was also invited to participate in the discussion and Biehl says that quite often, state and local law agencies are caught in the middle of the national immigration debate.

The police chief says, "There's been an effort nationally for a number of years to either encourage or literally co-opt local law enforcement to be part of the solution to the broken immigration system, and I have vigorously opposed that."

Biehl adds that "It is not an appropriate role for local law enforcement, other than the individuals who represent a threat to this country or serious violent offenders, but, to try and get us to literally fill the gap where the federal immigration system is not functioning is just not a role for local law enforcement."

About 60 residents and agency leaders took part in yesterday's event at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dayton and Top organizers, which includes the National Immigration Forum, say they'll be looking for action when all of Congress returns to Washington in September

WCPO-CIN (ABC): 9 News at 11

Community Leaders Hold Immigration Roundtable - Cincinnati, OH

August 28, 2013

<http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=2045&DateTime=08%2F28%2F2013+02%3A12%3A43&mediapreload=14&playclip=true>

South Carolina

ASSOCIATED PRESS: SC leaders hold immigration round table in Duncan (ABC 4, Independent Mail, WCBD News, Fox Carolina – WHNS 21, Daily Reporter)

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/23179244/sc-leaders-hold-immigration-round-table-in-duncan>

Posted: Aug 20, 2013 5:21 AM EST Updated: Aug 20, 2013 5:21 AM EST

DUNCAN, S.C. (AP) -- Leaders from a variety of different backgrounds are getting together for a conversation on immigration.

The discussion is taking place Tuesday at the River Falls Country Club in Duncan.

The round table with faith, law enforcement and business leaders is being put on by the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform Network.

Organizers say the conversation is part of a nationwide effort to get conversations about immigration going while Congress is in recess this summer.

Tennessee

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Business leaders make case for immigration reform (Also ran in Miami Herald, News & Observer, Times Free Press, Local 8 Now (WVLT Nashville), MyFox Memphis)

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/08/28/3591355/business-leaders-make-case-for.html#storylink=cpy>

**By TRAVIS LOLLER
Associated Press**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Prominent business leaders and Republicans held a forum in support of immigration reform on Wednesday.

The idea was to keep the immigration reform alive during the congressional recess and build support among the public and members of Congress.

The Senate passed a far-reaching immigration measure in June that includes border security, workplace enforcement and a path to citizenship. But the majority of House Republicans remain opposed to any path to citizenship, creating concerns that legislators will be unable to craft a compromise bill.

At the Wednesday forum, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President Randy Johnson rejected that idea.

Johnson said there has been a "seismic shift" on the issues in recent years, with many people now agreeing that immigrants need some sort of legal status.

Also ran in Miami Herald, News & Observer, Times Free Press, Local 8 Now (WVLT Nashville), MyFox Memphis

COMMERICAL APPEAL (Gonzales Op-Ed): Time for action on immigration reform

By Alberto R. Gonzales, Special to The Commercial Appeal
September 11, 2013

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2013/sep/11/alberto-gonzales-time-for-swift-action-on-reform/>

It is time for the U.S. House to take action to improve our inadequate immigration system.

An immigration system that ignores millions who are here in this country unlawfully is unfair to those who follow the rules.

Today's immigration system turns away the talented workers, entrepreneurs and farm workers we need to help grow our economy.

And, by not securing our borders, it puts America at even greater risk at a most dangerous time in the world.

I joined with leaders from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, the Associated Builders and Contractors trade association, the faith community and several others on Aug. 28 for a roundtable discussion of this issue at the First Amendment Center in Nashville.

It was clear from our discussion that we share the belief that it is the responsibility of our elected leaders to ensure that our laws keep us safe and help keep our economy growing. But to do that, we need meaningful reforms to:

Secure our borders and ensure a level playing field for American workers.

Provide a legal process for large companies and small businesses to hire the workers they need while weeding out the workers who are here illegally.

Bring America's undocumented immigrants out of the shadows by providing a path to legal status for those who pass criminal background checks, pay their penalties and back taxes, and can contribute to our economy.

Standing in the way of these reforms perpetuates an imperfect system that stifles our economy and leaves millions of people unaccounted for across the nation, which threatens our national security.

Immigrants play key roles at every level of the American economy — from high-skill workers to seasonal laborers — and they can help drive our economic growth, raising the standard of living for more Tennessee families and communities. Those who qualify should be placed into some type of legal status. The challenge is building an immigration system that works, is fair and does not create more problems than it solves.

The U.S. Senate has passed a comprehensive reform bill that includes tough new border security proposals and specific reforms to help us find the workers we need to grow our economy. While not perfect, the bill is a promising start toward an effective solution.

Now, it is time for the members of the U.S. House to act. If they have a better idea than their colleagues in the Senate, then they should move forward with their plan. But we cannot afford inaction. Avoiding the issue because it is difficult should not be an option.

Like generations of American immigrants before them, most of today's immigrants are hard-working, entrepreneurial and devoted to faith and family. They are seeking the same opportunities for their families as countless others before them. But we want them to abide by our laws and learn our language and culture in doing so.

It is time for comprehensive immigration reform — to secure our borders, to help Tennessee employers find the workers they need and to help get America's economy on the move again.

Alberto R. Gonzales is an attorney with the Waller law firm in Nashville and a former United States attorney general. He also holds the Doyle Rogers Distinguished Chair of Law at Belmont University.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE PUBLIC RADIO (89.5 FM): Business, Faith and Law Groups Hope to Influence Immigration Debate

By Mike Osborne

<http://wmot.org/post/business-faith-and-law-groups-hope-influence-immigration-debate>

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (WMOT) -- The immigration reform group Bibles, Badges and Business held a roundtable discussion Wednesday morning at the First Amendment Center in Nashville.

The group is part of a nationwide effort by business, law enforcement and faith groups to influence the immigration debate in the nation's capital.

Former attorney General Alberto Gonzales is led Wednesday's discussion. Also attending are representatives of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, the Middle Tennessee Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, and the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

The Rev. Eddie Pool of MJLife Church in Mt. Juliet was roundtable panelist. Poole describes himself as a conservative Republican, but says it's time for reform.

"We need to make a clear pathway toward staying in the country for the people who are already here. We're not going to be able to ship everybody back to Mexico. That's really just kind of, you know – it's not gonna' happen. So we need to figure out what we're going to do and make a plan and get it done and just take some action."

Poole says his current view of the immigration debate was shaped by a personal experience. A member of his church married an undocumented man whom he describes as now "lost in the system."

THE TENNESSEAN: Tennessee Business Leaders Press for New Immigration Laws

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20130829/BUSINESS01/308290064/TN-business-leaders-press-new-immigration-laws>

With the clock ticking on efforts in Washington to reform immigration this year, a group of Tennessee [business](#) leaders on Wednesday called on lawmakers to set aside politics and get new laws enacted.

[Businesses](#) across the state grapple daily with the uncertainty around employing undocumented workers, said Catherine Glover, president of the [Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry](#).

"It's really time to reform the broken immigration system," Glover said during a panel discussion at the John Seigenthaler Center at Vanderbilt University.

In June, the U.S. Senate passed an immigration overhaul, but the bill since has been stalled in the [House](#). Lawmakers are approaching a busy end of the legislative calendar, with another looming debate on the government's debt limit.

The debate over immigration has brought to the forefront issues surrounding border security and legalizing immigrants already in the country, as well as how to hold businesses accountable for hiring undocumented workers.

In many ways, the country's immigration system is working against businesses, Glover said.

"We've watched while entire industries have become increasingly dependent on undocumented workers," Glover said. "We train the world's top minds in science, technology, engineering, math, then we send them back, back to their [home](#) countries to compete against us."

The panel included former U.S. Attorney General [Alberto Gonzales](#), who now works as an attorney in Nashville and teaches law at Belmont University. In recent months, Gonzales has called for strengthening border security. But he said national security goes beyond that.

“We can’t just simply wall up the border and say we’ve protected America,” Gonzales said. “It doesn’t work that way. One-third to one-half of the people who are here unlawfully came here lawfully through visas, and they overstayed their visas.”

Legal status needed

Gonzales said there needs to be an effort to find some sort of legal status for those individuals.

“We have a large population in this country of many people we don’t know who they are or why they’re here,” he said.

Randy Johnson, senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said creating a temporary worker program could help businesses eliminate the need for undocumented workers, as well as help improve national security by tracking those people.

“They’re all part and parcel of better securing this country,” Johnson said. “If you pursue legalization, you shrink the haystack and find out where the bad guys are.”

Johnson said lawmakers have kicked the can down the [road](#) far enough on the immigration issue.

“If we don’t do anything, the world’s not going to end,” Johnson said. “But it’s like the frog boiling in the water — at some point it just creeps up on you. And if we don’t take care of this issue, it’s just going to eat at the foundations of this country.”

THE TENNESSEAN: Tennessee Voices: Fixing immigration system will pay dividends to U.S., state economy

http://www.tennessean.com/article/20130903/OPINION03/309030018/Tennessee-Voices-Fixing-immigration-system-will-pay-dividends-U-S-state-economy?nclick_check=1

There are a lot of personal stories that illustrate the need for comprehensive immigration reform, and these stories are important. But it is also important to point out that we badly need to fix our American immigration system because of what it is doing to our economy.

Consider a couple of figures from the conservative American Action Forum: The U.S. government would save \$410 billion over the next 10 years if Congress passed comprehensive immigration reform. Additionally, the gross domestic product level would be about 1.6 percent higher by 2014 with meaningful reform.

To those of us in business across Tennessee, those kinds of numbers resonate. Fixing the broken immigration system matters not only to the business community, but to the agriculture, law enforcement and faith communities, too.

I joined leaders from those areas Aug. 28 at the First Amendment Center in Nashville to discuss immigration reform. It was clear that we all share several basic priorities: The system must be fixed across the board, the border should be secure and blanket amnesty is not on the table.

Let me stress: Our immigration system can be fixed without granting blanket amnesty to those who are here illegally.

We support immigration legislation that would put a very high premium on the right to stay in the country. Living here legally is a precious right, and we must demand those who seek that right earn it.

We also must address the root of the problem: a porous border. We need a tougher fence and funding for the personnel needed to patrol it. We cannot put too high a price on our national security.

Securing the border has economic benefits, too. As long as undocumented workers can slip through, there are companies that will pay for their cheap labor. That puts the law-abiding businesses at a severe competitive disadvantage. Without competition, our free market cannot truly be free.

Just as the border allows too many in who shouldn't be here, it keeps out many who could make a contribution to our economy — especially here in Tennessee.

Current visa limitations don't give American employers equal access to the pool of global talent, and that hurts our ability to compete with the rest of the world. We won't be strong competitors as long as other nations are snapping up the most skilled workers, especially in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math).

Ironically, vast numbers of those skilled workers are trained at places like the Vanderbilt and Meharry medical schools and Belmont's nursing school, and they would like to stay here and work. But our immigration system leaves them with little choice but to head elsewhere.

The same goes for our ability to attract innovative entrepreneurs from around the world. It is no secret that Tennessee is one of the best places on the planet to do business. But entrepreneurs from abroad who want to come here and open companies — and create jobs for Tennesseans — find it easier to locate in other countries.

All of this adds up to one conclusion: Economic concerns demand that we fix our immigration system now.

My hope is that Tennessee's representatives in the U.S. House will continue their advocacy for a strong business environment in Tennessee and vote in favor of immigration reform legislation.

Catherine Glover is president of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Also ran in:

MEMPHIS DAILY NEWS:

<http://www.memphisdailynews.com/news/2013/aug/30/business-leaders-make-case-for-immigration-reform/>

TRICITIES:

http://www.tricitie.com/workittricitie/business_news/article_bod2d8be-104f-11e3-8ac1-001a4bcf6878.html

Texas

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD: Carter talks to media about immigration reform

Chris McGuinness, Aug 20, 2013

http://kdhnnews.com/news/politics/carter-talks-to-media-about-immigration-reform/article_19e6c72e-094e-11e3-9914-0019bb30f31a.html

BELTON — U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, held a news conference Monday on the subject of immigration reform.

Carter spoke to members of the media at the Central Texas Council of Governments building in Belton after a meeting with representatives from area businesses and leaders of local evangelical churches. Both groups, Carter said, had questions about legislative efforts to reform the country's immigration system.

"We have some problems to work out in this area," said Carter, who serves as the chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. "We've been talking about possible solutions." Carter's appearance in Belton comes after members of the U.S. Senate passed an immigration reform bill in July.

Speaking Wednesday, Carter said he believed the Senate bill would not pass in the House, and mentioned his work with a bipartisan group of members to create their own immigration reform legislation.

Carter said the group set out to create comprehensive immigration legislation that addresses multiple areas of the issue.

"Part of what's wrong with our immigration system is that we keep trying to patch it up," Carter said. "We need comprehensive reform."

Reform includes taking into account the needs of business owners, especially in the technology industry, where many companies hire employees from overseas to fill the sector's jobs.

"We need to make sure that we are able to get the best and brightest and remain competitive," said Wendy Reilly, director of state government affairs for TechAmerica's southern region.

Reform also includes tackling the difficult problem of just what to do with the nation's millions of undocumented immigrants. Carter said part of the group's reforms would ask them to admit they entered the country without proper documentation.

"We don't want to reward bad behavior," Carter said. "They are going to have to admit that they've come here illegally."

While lawmakers in Washington hash out just how to fix the nation's immigration policy, Carter also called for compassion for those the policy will impact, pointing to the presence of local religious leaders present at the meeting Monday.

"The evangelical community wants to remind people that we are dealing with human beings with families," Carter said. "They should be treated with respect and compassion."

Carter also touched on other issues, including the need to strengthen border security. No matter what kind of immigration reform Washington lawmakers do end up passing, Carter noted the importance of making sure the law would be enforced.

"If we do all this work and the (Obama) administration doesn't enforce the law, we've wasted our time," Carter said.

Contact Chris McGuinness at chrism@kdhnews.com or (254) 501-7568. Follow him on Twitter at

FME NEWS SERVICE: Rep. John Carter: We need comprehensive immigration reform

Posted: Monday, August 19, 2013 4:30 am

http://www.tdtnews.com/news/article_bfb128c2-094c-11e3-8784-001a4bcf6878.html

BELTON — U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, held a news conference Monday on the subject of immigration reform.

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TEXAS INSIDER: [Chairman Carter Speaks on Immigration Reform, Hears Support from Local Faith, Business Leaders](#)

<http://www.texasinsider.org/chairman-carter-speaks-on-immigration-reform-hears-support-from-local-faith-business-leaders/>

Texas Insider Report: AUSTIN, Texas – (BELTON, Texas) — Today Congressman John Carter (R-TX31), Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, met with faith and business leaders from his district and heard their support for broad immigration reform. In the meeting and a press conference that followed, Chairman Carter spoke about his work with the House Group of 7, which has been working on an immigration reform bill. The event builds on the [momentum](#) of [Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform network](#) leaders who have been gathering across the country to show their members of Congress that they and their constituencies will support courageous lawmakers who act on broad immigration reform that acknowledges the dignity of each person, respects the rule of law and addresses the needs of the American economy.

The following are quotes from participants in today's event:

Congressman John Carter (R-TX31), Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee:

"Today's meeting with evangelical and business leaders in Belton was encouraging. Their support for the rule of law, understanding it must be followed with compassion, gives me hope that we can fix our nation's broken immigration system. I am working for a system that will strengthen the border, respect the rule of law, implement E-verify, enhance the high-tech workforce and treat the undocumented compassionately."

Dr. Rick Hertless, Executive Pastor, Walk Worthy Baptist Church:

"As evangelical Christians we stand for the dignity of the people and call for an immigration solution that will serve America, Texas and the church overall."

Wendy Reilly, State Director of Government Affairs, Tech America:

"We urge Congress to enact legislation that will bring meaningful reforms. Our companies must be able to hire the best and brightest talent from around the world."

SOUTHWEST FARM PRESS: No action on immigration reform equates to giving illegals amnesty

Aug. 9, 2013 Ron Smith

<http://southwestfarmpress.com/government/no-action-immigration-reform-equates-giving-illegals-amnesty>

Politics, more than the country's best interest, drives debate on immigration reform, which is needed to provide stable workforce for agriculture and other industries.

The irony of Congress choosing to do nothing on immigration reform for fear of giving amnesty to undocumented workers is that doing nothing means amnesty.

The undocumented stay in place and the country is left without a commonsense immigration law that would provide a needed workforce for agriculture and other industries. The economy would suffer and some ag operations could move offshore.

"If Congress does nothing, it's amnesty," said Bruce Frasier, president of Dixondale Farms in Carrizo Springs, Texas.

Frazier, moderator of a panel discussing immigration reform during the recent Texas Produce Convention in San Antonio, said he's asked legislators if they want a government "big enough to round up 12 million people."

A better alternative, say he and panelists Ray Prewett, Texas Citrus Mutual and Texas Vegetable Association; James Terrell, Terrell Public Affairs; and Eddie Aldrete, International Bank of Commerce, would be immigration reform like the bill passed by the Senate.

If you are enjoying reading this article, please check out Southwest Farm Press Daily and receive the latest news right to your inbox.

Prewett said if the House passes its own bill it will be different from the Senate's version but he hopes a bill will be forthcoming so immigration reform will have a chance. He said some produce farmers have had to destroy crops this year because they could not get workers to harvest them.

One, Bernie Thiel of Lubbock, Texas, said he recently shredded eight acres of squash because of a labor shortage.

Prewett said the time is right for reform, even though much work remains to do in the House to convince legislators that immigration reform, including a guest worker program, is necessary.

As with other issues in Congress, immigration reform is riddled with politics. Some legislators do not want a guest worker program; others focus more on border security and some don't want to provide amnesty to undocumented persons already in the country.

Aldrete said some of the politics makes little sense. He said a new coalition "Bibles, Badges and Business," for instance, brings the faith community together with law enforcement and business entities to push for reform. The religious concern is for human well-being; businesses see the economic advantages of a strong workforce and law enforcement has indicated that some immigration legislation recently passed makes their jobs more difficult.

Also, demographics are changing. As the economy improves, local workers find better jobs and leave agriculture. At the same time, Mexico's economy is growing—faster than the U.S.—and unemployment across the border is 4.5 percent.

"I can't see why Congress would expect a steady flow across the border," Terrell said.

Part of the resistance in the House comes from "safe seats," Congressional districts that are not contested by the other party. "Republicans are more worried about primary challenges than the general election," Prewett said. Consequently, they feel little pressure to act on issues as controversial as immigration reform.

"But if Republicans want a chance at the White House, they have to deal with immigration reform," he said.

Panelists agreed that the Senate bill is not perfect but offers much of what agriculture needs, including a temporary worker program that offers a three-year visa to foreign workers. They can work in either a contract or at-will status. Contract work would be for a set period of time—long enough for tomato harvest, for instance—after which the worker can move on to another job.

At will workers can move from job to job, depending on pay or other favorable factors.

The bill requires farm employers to pay more. Frazier said field work pay would be set at \$9.64 an hour. That goes to \$9.84 for workers in packing sheds and similar facilities. Dairy and livestock workers get \$11.37 and tractor drivers would be paid \$11.87 per hour.

“Employers would have to pay local workers the same rate,” Frazier said. They would not have to pay Social Security and unemployment benefits but would be required to pay workers compensation.

Frazier said a proposal in the House would require holding back a percentage of guest workers’ wages to assure they would return to their home countries.

Prewett said some employers have concerns about the wage rates, indicating that needs could differ from one region to another. “The reason they set a national wage rate is that there is not enough good data available to develop a localized wage rate,” he said.

Frazier said employers could add another \$2 per hour to the wage rate in lieu of providing housing.

Chances of getting a bill through the house and to conference this year are not good, Frazier said. “It’s maybe a 20 percent chance. It also becomes more difficult the closer we get to mid-term elections.”

“I’m a little more optimistic,” Prewett said. “There is more pressure to deal with immigration than there has been for a long time.” He said other employers are also more engaged. “The high tech industry is more involved,” he said.

Terrell said some Republicans may fear that the Obama administration may blame Republicans for not passing an immigration bill. “I think we have a better chance than in years to see immigration reform. During the August recess, weigh in with your legislators.

WACO TRIBUNE: Bill Hammond, guest columnist: Comprehensive immigration reform a must for Texas business

Posted: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 12:01 am

BILL HAMMOND Guest columnist

http://www.wacotrib.com/opinion/columns/guest_columns/bill-hammond-guest-columnist-comprehensive-immigration-reform-a-must-for/article_25be651c-9e10-5e1b-bde6-1e093582b1f8.html

Texas is on the front line of the current immigration debate. We have seen firsthand the cost of a broken border and the toll it can have on citizens and immigrants alike. There also has been a toll on Texas businesses that can only be removed by Congress and the president putting into place comprehensive immigration reform.

Sealing the border is essential, but loading up the border with more border patrol officers is only part of the answer. Those officers need to focus on criminal activity, such as drug-smuggling and human trafficking. Focusing on people who are simply looking for a way to feed their families takes away valuable resources from fighting violent crimes that plague this country.

The real answer to our immigration problem is allowing enough legal immigration to meet the needs of employers. If employers’ needs are met, there will be an expanded avenue for people to enter legally and allow for greater focus on those who enter illegally.

Supply and demand

Piecemeal plans won’t fix this issue. Border security and additional avenues for legal immigration must work in tandem. Border security will never be adequate unless legal immigration is put in place. This is

more than a “boots on the ground” problem. It is a supply and demand issue, too. As long as jobs are available, there are immigrants who will access this country by legal or illegal means if it is the only way to support their families.

If there is one major flaw in current immigration reform plans, it is that they don’t offer enough legal immigration flexibility. There should be an ebb and flow as the economy and job markets dictate — not hard and fast numbers.

To those who argue that allowing more legal immigration will take away jobs from citizens, that view is inaccurate at best. It has never been the case, for example, that there were no Texans willing to take jobs in the hospitality, construction and agriculture fields — there certainly are. The problem is there are not enough. Supplementing with legal immigrants is the only way to meet the economic demands of these industries.

Then there is the question of how to deal with the undocumented people already here. In many cases, these are people who have homes, pay taxes and abide by the same laws that citizens like you and I do. They should be allowed to apply for legal status or apply for a “green card” for lack of a better term. That is not amnesty. They still would have to go through a lengthy process — first to gain legal status in this country, then to pursue citizenship if they so choose.

The next generation.

There is also the issue of students who come to this country and get advanced degrees in science and engineering, and are then sent back home. They should be given the option of staying here and using their talents that we have helped them gain to benefit our economy. These students have the potential to not only make great discoveries and breakthroughs in science and industry, they also have the potential to create new jobs and even new industries.

These solutions seem simple, but in politics simple is complicated. We urge Congress to take bold steps to deal with this issue as a whole; to remember that this is more about people than policy and should be handled with compassion; and to take a good look into how expanding legal immigration will benefit this country for years to come.

Bill Hammond is president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business, which represents companies large and small in Texas. It describes its mission as working to “improve the Texas business climate and to help make our state’s economy the strongest in the world.”

ASSOCIATED BAPTIST PRESS: CBF leader pushes for immigration reform

<http://www.abpnews.com/ministry/organizations/item/8806-cbf-leader-aol-founder-push-immigration-reform#.Uh-Wkz-Tp8F>

CBF head Suzii Paynter joined America Online founder Steve Case and others in a telephone press conference urging Congress to approve immigration reform beneficial to business, immigrants and faith.

By Jeff Brumley

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leader Suzii Paynter ramped up her advocacy for immigration reform Aug. 28 in a conference call with reporters urging Texans in Congress to approve moral legislation that takes into account the economic needs of the nation and spiritual and physical needs of immigrants.

Paynter, executive coordinator of the Atlanta-based Fellowship, was joined on the afternoon telephone panel by Steve Case, chairman and CEO of Revolution and co-founder of America Online, and by Steve Pringle, legislative director of the Texas Agriculture Bureau, among others.

As a group, they presented a message to federal legislators that there is a growing and unified voice across party, theological and economic lines favoring a policy that provides a way for undocumented immigrants to obtain some sort of status that enables them to remain and work in the United States.

Wednesday's Texas-focused event was part of Bibles, Badges and Business campaign, a state-by-state effort of the National Immigration Forum and the National Immigration Forum Action Fund.

Paynter, who served previously as executive director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, said CBF will continue its support of immigrant-friendly initiatives and ministries in Texas and is helping its Hispanic congregations mobilize so they can express the needs of immigrant communities.

Paynter said Congress has a lot of choices available to it, but the key is it must act when the August recess concludes. It's also important that members realize that religious groups are mobilizing in favor of such laws.

Paynter said there is "a major leadership voice with other denominational bodies, like the Evangelical immigration Table" that is presenting Congress with "a unified faith voice."
"It's very important we understand the moral aspect of our laws," she added.

Case said business is also becoming unified in its insistence that Congress take action to ensure America can continue to compete in the global economy. That means ensuring enough visas are available to highly skilled foreign workers.

Case said removing barriers to recruitment helps companies attract the best employees and enables foreigners to continue establishing U.S. companies. "Some see it as a security issue," he said. "Others see it as a moral issue and others as a political issue. I see it more as an economic issue."

Pringle urged representatives to keep agriculture in mind when they craft immigration reform. He noted that it's a must in Texas, where 70 percent of the agricultural workforce comprises undocumented or illegally documented workers.

Regardless of the wages offered, the typical American worker will not perform the needed-but-tedious agricultural jobs in the state, Pringle said.

"Failure to pass a guest-worker program ... will drive American jobs and agriculture overseas," Pringle said. "We must have some sort of system to maintain agricultural production."

Paynter wasn't the only faith-based voice on the call. She was joined by Tim Moore, senior pastor of Walk Worthy Baptist Church in Austin.

Moore said he has the backing of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in urging Texans in Congress to seek avenues through which illegal immigrants can obtain legal status.

Moore said he knows many in that situation who admit they've done wrong to enter the nation illegally and who want to get to the back of the line and make amends.

"My frustration is there is no line to send them to, to make that wrong right," he said.

For Paynter, the event was a continuation of her high-profile entry into the immigration reform debate, which included participation in a July panel discussion in Dallas titled "What Immigrants Contribute: A Special Event on Immigration, Texas and Economic Growth."

Utah

DESERET NEWS (Utah): Less partisanship on immigration, business leaders tell Rep. Bishop

By Lisa Riley Roche

August 26, 2013

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865585295/Less-partianship-on-immigration-business-leaders-tell-Rep-Bishop.html>

Representatives of the northern Utah business community expressed frustration Monday to Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, about the impact of partisan politics on federal immigration reform.

"It should not be a partisan issue," said Tim Wheelwright, speaking on behalf of the Ogden/Weber and Davis chambers. He said the differences between Republicans and Democrats need to be set aside for the "economic prosperity" of the country.

"That's what for business, I think, gets so frustrating is to see the partisanship that just pervades Washington and is really holding this up right now," said Wheelwright, a Salt Lake-based immigration attorney.

Bishop, who met with the group in his Main Street office near the city's archway sign, stopped Wheelwright after he claimed that the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill could pass in the House if leaders allowed a vote.

"Let me interrupt you because you're not helping your point," Bishop said. "The bottom line is, partisanship does play a role but not what people think it does. There are not votes in the House to pass the Senate bill."

First elected to Congress in 2002, Bishop said the split in Congress "is really not Republican versus Democrat. It's House versus Senate. ... It is a chamber issue. It's not a political issue."

He said the bill passed by the Democratic-controlled Senate "is really a bad bill. It should not be passed under any condition. Either do it right or you don't do it at all."

The GOP-controlled House, Bishop said, is attempting to individually tackle the major immigration issues, including border control and establishing a pathway to citizenship or legalization for immigrants living in the country illegally.

Jim Smith, president of the Davis Chamber, said the jockeying between the House and the Senate is equally frustrating. "We've got to get over that," Smith said. "Effectively, nobody is talking to anybody."

Warning that the debate is becoming ever more shrill, Smith asked the congressman what the business community can do to help make progress on the issue of dealing with immigrants in the country illegally.

"You want me to be painfully honest? There's nothing you can do," Bishop said. He also said he saw the tone of the immigration debate in Washington differently, especially after years of refusing to even discuss the issue.

"I don't hear the language as more shrill at all. I hear the language as more accommodating than ever before," Bishop said. "You hear that more as a media point of view than it is reality."

Border security has to be dealt with first, Bishop said, to create momentum to deal with the tougher issues. He said the focus needs to be on granting access to patrols on environmentally sensitive federal land, not building a bigger fence.

"There is a still a great deal of anger and anxiety out there," Bishop said, about not only the workers but also the drug dealers, criminal cartels and human traffickers crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

Addressing what he called the porous border will soothe that anger and anxiety, said Bishop, the sponsor of legislation opening up the protected lands to patrols. "That's why that piece is so significant."

Wheelwright asked whether it was practical to expect the House and the Senate to find solutions one bill at a time, especially when it comes to the "elephant in the room," providing for immigrants in the country illegally to stay.

Bishop said there are not members of Congress who simply hate immigrants. "Maybe in society there are, but in the halls of Congress, you're dealing with a different issue," he said.

That issue, he said, is the philosophical difference between the House and the Senate majorities over the need for debt reduction. Immigration reform, he said, is a "tactical, mechanical" difference.

Still, Bishop warned, immigration reform will take time. But he said the 2014 mid-term elections in Congress won't make the issue more toxic politically, even though both parties are fighting for control.

The chances of passing a series of reforms will "be decent. It's not going to be more political in 2014 than it is now," Bishop said, noting Congress will return from summer recess next month.

Bishop said he was not certain what the House bill dealing with immigrants already in the country illegally would look like or what he would be willing to support.

Other legislation, like making more visas available to technical workers, should be easier to get passed, he said, while it may be more difficult to come up with an acceptable way to accommodate the children of immigrants here illegally.

After the hourlong meeting, Wheelwright said sitting down with Bishop was an opportunity to remind the congressman that his constituents are concerned about more than border security when it comes to immigration reform.

He said the business community will continue to push for immigration reform. "I remain cautiously optimistic," Wheelwright said

THE STANDARD EXAMINER (UTAH): Bishop expects possibility for immigration reforms

By Antone Clark

August 27, 2013

<http://www.standard.net/stories/2013/08/27/bishop-expects-possibility-immigration-reforms>

BRIGHAM CITY — Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, sees comprehensive immigration reform as a possibility this congressional session, though he admits there are a couple of thorny issues to iron out before it will become a reality.

Bishop held an hour-long meeting Monday with Chamber of Commerce leaders from Cache County, Brigham City, Ogden/Weber and the Davis County chambers in his Brigham City office and said he thinks it's possible Congress could pass immigration reform before 2014.

"I find the voices less shrill than before. Five or six years ago there would have been no way in hell. I don't hear the language as more shrill, I hear it as more accommodating than before," Bishop said of the current mood in Congress to deal with the issue.

The Senate has already passed an immigration reform measure and there are currently five separate bills pending in the House, dealing with different aspects of immigration.

The former high school history teacher said he cannot support the Senate bill as currently written. He described it as being worse than the status quo, but said most immigration issues can be easily addressed, especially visas, and dealing with the children of undocumented workers. He said the most pressing issue is securing the border.

"If there is border security first, then I'm willing to go along with the rest of the stuff. That is the number one key," Bishop said.

As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, Bishop has had a hand in crafting one of the bills to give Homeland Security the right to conduct any activity or construct any facility required to secure the border. It would give Border Patrol and Customs agents the right to suspend any federal law on land managed by the departments of Interior and Agriculture. Bishop maintains border security problems are generated more by the inability of federal agencies to accommodate patrolling along the border. He said the most egregious problems occur on federal lands in Arizona.

By contrast, Texas, with state and private land which is accessible to agents, has fewer problems with border intrusions.

He said the border near Tucson is especially porous and is heavily used as a gateway for drugs, cartels and human trafficking.

"Having more bodies on the border is not the issue. Having more hardware is not the issue ... We don't need more money, more trinkets, but access east and west," Bishop said.

Attorney Timothy Wheelwright of Durham, Jones & Pinegar of Salt Lake has been dealing with immigration issue for 17 years. He pointed out the Senate bill setting up e-verify rules for documented workers presents potential problems for employers.

He said a Davis County company using e-verify to ensure its employees were legal to work in the United States was fined because they filled out federal forms improperly.

Bishop said House members are already tackling the potential problems with e-verify. He said unless current problems with the electronic system are ironed out, that phase of immigration reform will not pass.

The bigger issue, according to the six-term congressman, is addressing the path to citizenship or potential amnesty for the approximately 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States. He said the divide on the issue is not Republican versus Democrat but the Senate versus the House.

"It's a chamber issue, not a political issue. The Senate did a bill and what they did was get something in the bill everyone liked. There are not the votes in the House to pass the Senate bill," he said.

Bishop said the House will be slow and methodical in addressing specific areas of immigration reform and he suggested the issue could pick up momentum as some of the "easy stuff" on the issue is addressed.

"If you can reduce anger and anxiety, people then are willing to do some compromising later on," Bishop said.

Wheelwright expressed concern the mid-term elections could impact the issue, but Bishop said he doesn't think that will be a factor.

Nathan Rich of the Davis County Chamber wondered what local leaders could do to influence change at the state and local level on any potential reform plan.

Bishop said the question goes to the heart of any potential reform. He envisions a way states and the federal government can partner to address enforcement as well as documentation issues. He said states may have to work out compacts to deal with the issue.

Wisconsin

DOOR COUNTY ADVOCATE (Wisconsin) (Morin Letter): Immigration forum put spotlight on need for reform

By Darryl D. Morin

August 28, 2013

<http://www.doorcountyadvocate.com/article/20130830/WDHo6/308290083/Letter-Immigration-forum-put-spotlight-need-reform>

EDITOR: I want to thank the good people of Wausau and U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy for sending his district director to join us at the [“Bibles, Badges and Business” immigration reform roundtable](#). We had a productive discussion about this important issue and the need for Congress to put in place a commonsense immigration system.

Our panel included both Democrats and Republicans because immigration reform is an issue that is not about party but community and country. To that point, I welcomed Gov. Scott Walker’s remarks last month when he spoke out in favor of immigration reform.

Make no mistake, fixing our broken immigration system is as much about our economic security as it is about our national security. As was mentioned at the roundtable, if all undocumented immigrants were removed from Wisconsin, the state would lose \$2.6 billion in economic activity and 15,000 jobs — instead of adding \$3.1 billion to the economy and creating 5,782 jobs in 2014 alone through reform.

The U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform package that includes important provisions to secure our borders and revamp the worker visa system so that everyone from our dairy farmers to the high tech industry will be able to find and employ the legal workers they need to keep our economy moving. It is now incumbent on the House of Representatives to follow suit.

Immigration reform is about community, and in a greater sense, about country. Failure on the House’s part to act will have a direct impact on all of us.

Darryl D. Morin,
Milwaukee

WISCONSIN TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL: Forum on federal immigration reform set for Aug. 14 in Wausau

August 8, 2013

A forum on federal immigration reform will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14, at the UW Center for Civic Engagement, 518 S. 7th Ave., Wausau, on the UW-Marathon campus. Tom Still, president of the Wisconsin Technology Council, will be among the panelists. To attend, respond to mmwisconsinbbb2013@gmail.com. The forum is hosted by FWD.us, a coalition of tech-based companies, and Bibles, Badges and Business.

<http://www.wisconsintechcouncil.com/newsroom/?ID=2154>

WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO NEWS: Wausau Hosts Diverse Roundtable On Immigration Reform

<http://news.wpr.org/post/wausau-hosts-diverse-roundtable-immigration-reform>

A roundtable of business, religious and law enforcement leaders gathered in [Wausau](#) today to push for immigration reform.

[Listen](#)

0:00

1:32

The effort to influence Congress during the late summer recess was called “Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform.”

One of the business representatives was Tim O'Harrow, whose Wisconsin dairy farm was raided by immigration authorities six years ago. “Law enforcement descended on our farm like wild dogs, and treated one of our original employees like a dog, or less than. My anger was at such a high pitch.”

O'Harrow says he's channeling that anger to convince fellow Republicans to support immigration reform. Ed Lump, the CEO of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, also represented business interests on the panel.

“We certainly currently employ a lot of immigrants in our industry,” says Lump. “We're a natural magnet for that. And it is very important to protect our industry, and protect our workforce, frankly.” John Huebscher, executive director of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, said treating immigrants fairly is at the heart of Christian doctrine. “It's central to who we are. From the very beginning, Christians have been called to care and speak out for those at the margins of society.”

Another panelist, [Marathon County](#) Sheriff Scott Parks, spoke in favor of a national identification system. The Bibles, Badges and Business forum was attended by a representative of someone who could cast a vote on immigration: U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, D-Wisc.

WJFW Channel 12: Panel emphasizes Wisconsin benefits of immigration reform

<http://www.wjfw.com/stories.html?sku=20130814181452>

WAUSAU - If all illegal immigrants were removed from the state, Wisconsin would lose \$2.6 billion in economic activity and almost 15,000 jobs.

A group called Bibles, Badges, and Business used those numbers to push their message Wednesday in Wausau.

The BBB wants what they call common sense immigration reform in America.

They're bringing together leaders in faith, law enforcement, and business to show what immigration reform would mean for Wisconsin.

They say that goes for not only urban areas in southern Wisconsin, but the entire state.

"I have to believe most people in Wisconsin get that we're all connected. Whether you can go out and see people whom you know are immigrants in your community, you understand that at some important level, this affects all of us," said John Huebscher, the Wisconsin Catholic Conference Executive Director.

"This really is an issue that's not about party. It's about community, and in a greater sense, about country. All of us, whether we know it or not, know somebody who's undocumented," said Darryl Morin, the Advanced Wireless, Inc. CEO.

Wednesday's panel included both Republicans and Democrats pushing for a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

"It's really important that you allow the undocumented to come forward, without such a horrible penalty that it doesn't pay to come forward," said Oconto County dairy farmer Tim O'Harrow.

The group likes an immigration reform package that has made it through the U.S. Senate.

So far, attempts at a similar bill have stalled in the House.

WAOW ABC 9: Immigration reform group focuses on Rep. Sean Duffy

<http://www.waow.com/story/23139779/2013/08/14/immigration-reform-group-zeroes-in-on-rep-sean-duffy>

WAUSAU (WAOW) - A group supporting immigration reform brought its message to Wausau.

That group—Bibles, Badges, and Business for Immigration Reform (BBB)—is pushing Rep. Sean Duffy (R-7th District) to support overhauling our nation's immigration laws.

At a forum Wednesday afternoon at UW-Marathon County, several panelists spoke in support of passing immigration reform. That panel included business leaders and a dairy farmer. Marathon County Sheriff Scott Parks also attended.

According to its website, BBB pushes for creating a pathway for those in the country illegally to gain citizenship, modernizing the country's current immigration policies, strengthening border security, and creating worker programs.

The U.S. Senate has already passed an immigration bill. It's now before the House of Representatives.

Angela Adams, BBB Midwest regional coordinator, said the group is holding these forums in areas of the country where members of Congress haven't taken a firm stance on immigration.

Adams said her group feels "like we can bring some light to the conversation and bring some of these voices that are traditionally more conservative in support of immigration reform."

Congressman Duffy did not attend Wednesday's forum, but his district director did. Newline 9 asked for comment on Duffy's stance on immigration, but he declined, referring us to a spokeswoman. The spokeswoman never got back to us.

WAUSAU DAILY HERALD (Morin Letter): Immigration forum put spotlight on need for reform

By Darryl D. Morin

Aug. 30, 2013

EDITOR: I want to thank the good people of Wausau and U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy for sending his district director to join us at the ["Bibles, Badges and Business" immigration reform roundtable](#). We had a [productive](#) discussion about this important issue and the need for Congress to put in place a commonsense immigration system.

Our panel included both Democrats and Republicans because immigration reform is an issue that is not about party but [community](#) and country. To that point, I welcomed Gov. Scott Walker's remarks last month when he spoke out in favor of immigration reform.

Make no mistake, fixing our broken immigration system is as much about our [economic](#) security as it is about our national security. As was mentioned at the roundtable, if all undocumented immigrants were removed from Wisconsin, the state would lose \$2.6 billion in economic activity and 15,000 jobs — instead of adding \$3.1 billion to the economy and creating 5,782 jobs in 2014 alone through reform. The U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform package that includes important provisions to secure our borders and revamp the worker visa system so that everyone from our dairy

farmers to the high tech industry will be able to find and employ the legal workers they need to keep our economy moving. It is now incumbent on the [House](#) of Representatives to follow suit. Immigration reform is about community, and in a greater sense, about country. Failure on the House's part to act will have a direct impact on all of us.

Darryl D. Morin,
Milwaukee

WSAU 99.9 FM/550 AM: Immigration discussion comes to UW-Marathon County

<http://wsau.com/news/articles/2013/aug/15/immigration-discussion-comes-to-uw-marathon-county/>

WAUSAU, Wis. (WSAU) - A group of community leaders met in Wausau yesterday to talk about immigration reform and how it affects central and northern Wisconsin.

The forum was organized by the Bibles, Badges and Businesses group, with representatives from the evangelical, industry and public safety sectors. Among those speaking at the event at UW-Marathon County yesterday were Oconto dairy farmer Tim O'Harrow Wisconsin Restaurant association president Ed Lump, and John Huebscher of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference. Sheriff Scott Parks also appeared to talk about how immigration is affecting the county.

Organizer Angela Adams says one of the primary concerns for the group is fixing student visas. "People who come here to go to school can't stay and so we, by the nature of the system, force them out. And therefore we can't keep the high qualified people that just went through our education system and that we trained."

The group is hoping to push debate on the immigration reform that's passed the Senate and stalled in the House. Adams says the central Wisconsin area needs to talk about the issues. "We want to encourage them to continue these conversations, to gather information, and to raise the voices of the constituents that vote for them." They're aiming directly for Congressman Sean Duffy, who hasn't taken a definitive stance one way or the other on the reform bill.

Adams says the central Wisconsin area can't hide from the issue of how to handle immigration. "Here you've got a nice combination of agriculture, and you've got areas that have experienced growth in immigration and are struggling over what to do with that growth. The county's dairy industry has seen a rapid expansion in the number of Hispanic workers that help operate farms, especially those with more than 300 head of cattle.

Bibles, Badges and Businesses is affiliated with the National Immigration Forum.

INSIDE WISCONSIN: "Immigration reform debate reaches into cities, farms of central Wisconsin"

Tom Still column No. 33-13

http://host.madison.com/wsj/business/inside-wisconsin-wausau-wisconsin-in-thick-of-immigration-reform-debate/article_3fe1554a-952c-5e8a-a12c-6f2d4a6ec56a.html

http://chippewa.com/news/opinion/columns/still-immigration-reform-debate-reaches-into-cities-farms-of-state/article_4057134a-08fa-11e3-8e89-0019bb2963f4.html

<http://www.doorcountyadvocate.com/article/20130819/APC06/308190110/Immigration-reform-vital-state-too>

<http://wisconsintechcouncil.com/newsroom/inside-wi/?ID=2169>

<http://www.ibmadison.com/Blogger/Inside-Wisconsin/August-2013/Immigration-reform-debate-reaches-into-cities-farms-of-central-Wisconsin/>

<http://www.kenoshanews.com/opinion/wisconsin-voices-join-immigration-debate-472950408.html>

http://host.madison.com/wsj/business/inside-wisconsin-wausau-wisconsin-in-thick-of-immigration-reform-debate/article_3fe1554a-952c-5e8a-a12c-6f2d4a6ec56a.html

WAUSAU – In many ways, this central Wisconsin city would seem an unlikely spot for a discussion about immigration reform.

It's not in a "sandy state" like Texas, California or Arizona, where border control issues are at the forefront of an often-divisive national debate. The closest international border to Wausau is Canada (unless you count Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which some Wisconsin natives do).

It's not a major metropolitan area, where immigrants, legal and otherwise, tend to congregate as they pursue their own version of the American Dream. Located in largely rural Marathon County, Wausau is a city of about 40,000 that absorbed several thousand Hmong immigrants beginning in the 1970s.

Wausau was nonetheless the site of an Aug. 14 forum that demonstrated how the issue of immigration reform has become a district-by-district struggle for votes in the U.S. House of Representatives, where a Senate-passed reform bill faces an uncertain future.

A group called "Bibles, Badges and Business" worked with FWD.us, a coalition of technology companies, to bring together supporters of reform to talk about why it matters in places such as Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District. The district covers much of northwest Wisconsin and is represented by Republican Sean Duffy, who has yet to say how he might vote if the bill reaches the House floor.

With one of Duffy's key staffers in the audience, panelists offered a mix of perspectives – from the religious, public safety and business worlds – on why immigration reform would help the United States and northern Wisconsin.

Speakers included Tim O'Harrow, whose Oconto County dairy farm was raided by immigration authorities six years ago. "Law enforcement descended on our farm like wild dogs, and treated one of our original employees like a dog, or less than," he recalled.

O'Harrow is representative of a trend on Wisconsin dairy farms, especially those with larger herds. About 40 percent of dairy farm workers in Wisconsin are immigrants, according to a UW-Madison study.

Ed Lump, chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, said his industry employs a number of immigrants – and the jobs they hold aren't always low wage or dead-end. Many use the experience to become managers or start their own businesses.

John Huebscher, executive director of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, said treating immigrants fairly is at the heart of Christian doctrine. "It's central to who we are. From the very beginning, Christians have been called to care and speak out for those at the margins of society," he said.

Marathon County Sheriff Scott Parks said he supports a national identification system to help law enforcement ensure public safety. He added, however, that local law officers aren't likely to put

immigration law enforcement high on their priority list so long as people who may or may not be undocumented aliens are otherwise obeying the law.

Darryl Morin, a Latino and a Republican activist who founded Advanced Wireless Inc., said the Senate bill won't turn illegal immigrants into citizens overnight. Rather, he noted, it allows them to step out of the shadows and begin a "very rigorous path" to documented status or citizenship – provided they pass background checks and a citizenship test.

Erich Straub, who runs an immigration-based law firm in Milwaukee, said many native-born Americans would have trouble passing a citizenship test. "But I have never had a single client in my 20 years of practice fail that test. They take it very seriously," he said. "It's a point of pride for them."

Immigration reform can help the Wisconsin economy at a time when the demographics of an aging society are chipping away at the state's workforce, from its kitchens, farms and tourist resorts to its research laboratories and tech companies.

In a global economy, Wisconsin looks much less international than even its neighbors. Compared to Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan, Wisconsin has a smaller share of foreign-born population and total labor force, as well as fewer foreign-born business owners.

The gap is most glaring when it comes to keeping foreign-born workers with specific skills needed in a knowledge-based economy. The United States annually graduates about 40,000 foreign-born students with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering or math, but only a fraction are allowed or encouraged to stay.

Wausau may not be on the front lines of the immigration debate – but it's symbolic of how all states, including Wisconsin, can gain from rational changes in current law. The question is whether Congress can agree to get there.

Still is president of the Wisconsin Technology Council. He is the former associate editor of the Wisconsin State Journal.

THE SPANISH JOURNAL: Wisconsin Leaders Push for Action on Immigration Reform

<http://www.spanishjournal.com/2013/08/wisconsin-leaders-push-for-action-on-immigration-reform/>

WAUSAU, Wis. — With Congressman Sean Duffy (WI-07) back in his district over the August recess, prominent Wisconsin leaders came together on Wednesday to voice their support for broad, commonsense immigration reform.

During a Wausau roundtable hosted by the Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration ReformNetwork and FWD. us, local leaders in the faith, law enforcement and business communities added their voices to the nationwide call for just immigration reform that acknowledges the dignity of each person, respects the rule of law and addresses the needs of the American economy. At the roundtable, these leaders highlighted the importance of immigration to Wisconsin's 7th district and let their legislators know that they will be looking for action after Congress returns to Washington in September.

This event builds on the momentum of Bibles, Badges and Business leaders who have been gathering across the country to show their members of Congress that they and their constituencies will support courageous lawmakers who act on broad immigration reform.

The following are quotes from Wisconsin Bibles, Badges and Business leaders at today's event:

John Huebscher, Executive Director, Wisconsin Catholic Conference:

"Immigration is one of those issues that summons us to live up to our ideals as a nation. Those who come after us will judge us by how we respond to that call."

Ed Lump, President and CEO of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association:

"The National Restaurant Association (NRA) and WRA have both been working on the issue of immigration reform for over a decade. But since the 2012 elections, public opinion has shifted dramatically in favor of this effort. As a result, elected officials from both political parties seem to be working toward a bipartisan solution. We support their efforts."

Darryl Morin, National Vice President- Midwest of the League of United Latin American Citizens:

"We need immigration reform that provides for our nation's security, economy and humanity."

Tom Still, President, Wisconsin Tech Council:

"To compare in the knowledge economy, Wisconsin must do a better job of attracting skilled workers. Foreign-born workers, often educated in Wisconsin, should be encouraged to remain here and contribute to the Wisconsin economy."

WJMN (CBS): Channel 3 First News

**Community leaders hold roundtable discussion on immigration reform - Marquette, MI
August 27, 2013**

<http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=5075&DateTime=08%2F27%2F2013+06%3A37%3A21&mediapreload=14&playclip=true>

Evangelical Immigration Table Radio Ad Campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Coalition of Evangelicals launches ad campaign in key congressional districts (103 hits)

August 20, 2013

<http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/apexchange/2013/08/20/immigration-evangelicals.html>

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of Evangelical groups, including the Southern Baptist Convention, hopes to give an earful to key congressional lawmakers about immigration reform.

The Evangelical Immigration Table, formed last year, has launched a \$400,000 radio ad campaign in 56 congressional districts. The ads will feature local pastors and national voices encouraging passage of immigration reform without delay. Dr. Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission says the ads will air for two weeks "at saturation rates."

Pastor Felix Cabrera of Oklahoma City's Quail Creek Baptist Church says the collateral damage of the current policy that he has seen includes the detention and separation of parents from children born in the U.S.

And Amarillo, Texas, pastor Stan Coffey says Evangelicals should let their voices be heard on the issue and that he believes "this is what Jesus would have done if he were here."

Ran in:

Washington Post

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/religion-news-in-brief/2013/08/21/35588d6c-0a75-11e3-89fe-abb4a5067014_story.html

Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/news/texas/article/Evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign-4750393.php?cmpid=htx>

ABC News

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/religion-news-20023613>

Akron News Now (OH)

<http://akronnewsnow.com/featured/item/103903-religion-news-in-brief>

Anchorage Daily News (AK)

<http://www.adn.com/2013/08/21/3035947/evangelicals-launch-political.html>

Arizona Daily Star

http://azstarnet.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_84a6112f-bd4a-5427-88cf-953210e2f546.html

The Baytown Sun (TX)

http://baytownsun.com/texas_ap/article_694a0b95-0cb3-5d03-8d31-d1fe297ca390.html

Beatrice Daily Sun (NE)

http://beatricedailysun.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_17c6b644-57ef-536c-8970-98acb9732164.html

The Bellingham Herald (WA)

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2013/08/21/3160070/evangelicals-launch-political.html>

The Billings Gazette (MT)

http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/article_53f411b9-af48-501e-b968-9d942900beb5.html

The Bismarck Tribune (ND)

http://bismarcktribune.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_801ae5f3-f059-54dd-836e-321e8c931de5.html

The Boston Globe

<http://www.boston.com/news/nation/2013/08/21/religion-news-brief/UPPV75RIyhKSeGovcjpPkI/story.html>

Centre Daily Times (PA)

<http://www.centredaily.com/2013/08/21/3747684/religion-news-in-brief.html>

Chambersburg Public Opinion

http://www.publicopiniononline.com/living/ci_23908566/religion-news-brief

The Chippewa Herald (WI)

http://chippewa.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_5cb31888-aabe-568e-bcb5-50362d4d9164.html

Christian Broadcasting Network News

<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/shows/cwn/Religion-Roundup/>

Colorado Springs Gazette

<http://gazette.com/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign/article/feed/34721>

Columbus Telegram (NE)

http://columbustelegram.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_a16c8c12-e580-5513-981e-7bae304b2064.html

The Cumberlink Sentinel (PA)

http://cumberlink.com/news/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_8793767e-d7f6-5027-871d-1ff328b137a4.html

Daily Herald (UT)

http://www.heraldextra.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion-news-in-brief/article_a1c7c3f3-70b3-5033-a162-31ba35583785.html

Daily Journal (IN)

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/85466a8b0168459092a92377578a4951/US-REL--Religion-Briefs/#.UhUZs3-tJX8>

Daily Reporter (IN)

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/85466a8b0168459092a92377578a4951/US-REL--Religion-Briefs>

The Daily Tribune (TX)

http://www.dailytribune.net/news/state/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign/article_59b91bf3-37ec-540a-a07b-ad5b13eb9e6f.html

The Eagle (TX)

http://www.theeagle.com/news/faith_values/article_3aed3151-8b9e-5175-836a-65607eaa1f7f.html

El Paso Times (TX)

http://www.elpasotimes.com/living/ci_23908566/religion-news-brief

Enquirer-Herald (SC)

<http://www.enquirerherald.com/2013/08/21/2644295/evangelicals-launch-political.html>

Fort Mill Times (SC)

<http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2013/08/21/2904931/evangelicals-launch-political.html>

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (TX)

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/08/21/5098795/evangelicals-launch-political.html>

Fox10TV (AL)

http://www.fox10tv.com/news/politics/religion-news-in-brief_92913788

Fremont Tribune (NE)

http://fremonttribune.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_c1200562-1193-5d85-a42e-9986e5ed1f9f.html

Galveston Daily News

http://www.galvestondailynews.com/news_ap/texas/article_bea05a14-599c-57a1-8d11-f12fo8136d6a.html

The Garden Island (HI)

http://thegardenisland.com/news/national/religion-news-in-brief/article_65aaf59b-6ed8-5286-868d-76ba0848f735.html

Greenwich Time (CT)

<http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/texas/article/Evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign-4750393.php>

Interceder (TX)

http://interceder.net/latest_news/Amarillo

The Journal Times (WI)

http://journaltimes.com/news/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_e4f5e761-cf71-5938-9310-c4addb817d2c.html

Kansas City Star (MO)

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/08/21/4425045/religion-news-in-brief.html>

KABB Fox San Antonio

http://www.foxsanantonio.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tx/25f5fa61-www.foxsanantonio.com.shtml

KBTX (TX)

http://www.fox4beaumont.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tx/25f5fa61-www.fox4beaumont.com.shtml#.Uhd5jH_wrzw

KEYE TV (TX)

http://www.keyetv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tx/25f5fa61-www.keyetv.com.shtml#.Uhd1XH_wrzw

KFOX14 (TX)

http://www.kfoxtv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tx/25f5fa61-www.kfoxtv.com.shtml#.Uhd51X_wrzx

KHOU (TX)

<http://www.khou.com/news/national/220576661.html>

KHRD ABC40 (TX)

<http://www.abc40.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KIII TV (TX)

<http://www.kiiitv.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KLTV 7 (TX)

<http://www.kltv.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KPLC TV7 (LA)

<http://www.kplctv.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KRMG (OK)

<http://www.krmg.com/ap/ap/texas/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign/nZYXy/>

KSLA News 12 (LA)

<http://www.ksla.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KTBS (LA)

<http://www.ktbs.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KTEN (TX/OK)

<http://www.kten.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KTRE (TX)

<http://www.ktre.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

KXXV (TX)

<http://www.kxxv.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

Longview Daily News (WA)

http://tdn.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_9a643e5e-60a7-531a-825b-cb5fca214d6c.html

Mercury News (San Jose, CA)

http://www.mercurynews.com/faith/ci_23908566/religion-news-brief

Miami Herald

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/08/21/3576637/religion-news-in-brief.html>

The Montana Standard

http://mtstandard.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_f69733c3-1c8f-5261-a390-25e5830bd87a.html

Monterey County Herald (CA)

http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci_23908566/religion-news-brief

My Fox Austin

<http://www.myfoxaustin.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

My Fox Houston

<http://www.myfoxxhouston.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

MyWestTexas

http://www.mywesttexas.com/statenation/article_11b4887a-0af2-11e3-9ea7-0019bb2963f4.html

News4 San Antonio

http://www.news4sanantonio.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tx/25f5fa61-www.news4sanantonio.com.shtml#.Uhds4H_wrzx

News 12 New Jersey

<http://newjersey.news12.com/news/religion-news-in-brief-1.5930338>

News Channel 6 (TX)

<http://www.newschannel6now.com/story/23222746/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

News Channel 10 (TX)

<http://www.newschannel10.com/story/4231147/main-contact-info>

News Times (CT)

<http://www.newstimes.com/news/texas/article/Evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign-4750393.php>

The News Tribune (WA)

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/08/21/2742242/religion-news-in-brief.html>

NECN (MA)

http://www.necn.com/08/21/13/Evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign/landing_nation.html?&apID=18ef6fb520614969bfc919a5d4d75686

News 96.5 (FL)

<http://www.news965.com/ap/ap/texas/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign/nZYXy/>

NWI Times (IN)

http://www.nwitimes.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_adffadbe-1496-5454-83e5-c8acfe7e566e.html

Odessa American (TX)

http://m.oaoa.com/people/religion/article_10361238-25c7-5476-8286-2b88d7958644.html

The Oklahoman

<http://newsok.com/evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign/article/feed/581138>

The Olympian (WA)

http://www.theolympian.com/2013/08/21/2682688_religion-news-in-brief.html

Packers News (WI)

<http://www.packersnews.com/viewart/20130823/SHE04/308230234/Evangelicals-launch-political-ad-campaign>

The Press of Atlantic City (NJ)

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/ap/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_2a777fbb-d6e6-5749-8885-82348ad405c6.html

Quad City Times (IA)

http://qctimes.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/religion/religion-news-in-brief/article_da107858-c9a6-5b3c-b5c2-28997ea030f6.html

The Republic (IN)

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ASSOCIATED PRESS: Evangelical group backing Rep. Spencer Bachus on pathway to citizenship for immigrants

August 31, 2013

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2013/aug/31/evangelical-group-backing-rep-spencer-bachus-pathw/>

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A national coalition of evangelicals who support a pathway to citizenship for immigrants who entered the country illegally is airing radio ads in the Birmingham-area district of Rep. Spencer Bachus as part of a national campaign in 14 states.

The Montgomery Advertiser reports that leaders of the Evangelical Immigration Table are spending \$400,000 on radio ads on Christian and talk radio stations in 56 congressional districts to support legislation that backers say would provide more border security and offer a route to citizenship for those who entered the U.S. illegally.

"They will return to Washington knowing they have support at home for taking action on reform," said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research with the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

The group selected districts represented by lawmakers whose committees could shape the immigration debate or in areas where there is a large evangelical presence. Bachus, R-Vestavia Hills, sits on the House Judiciary Committee, where GOP lawmakers are drafting immigration legislation.

Bachus did not favor a tough law in Alabama targeting people who broke immigration laws. The lawmaker has said he supports a route to citizenship for those who earn it.

"I don't think we ought to have two classes of long-term residents," Bachus said recently.

Bachus spokesman Tim Johnson said the lawmaker "welcomes the expression of all views."

Besides Alabama, the ads are also running in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin. The radio spots are competing with advertisements funding by rival organizations that encourage House members to adopt a plan that would not offer a route to citizenship.

Ran in:**Chattanooga Times Free Press (TN)**

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ASSOCIATED PRESS: Voices Opposing Immigration Law Muted This August (39 hits)

August 22, 2013

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=214372000>

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — It was the kickoff of a "Stop Amnesty Tour" organized by the Tea Party Patriots and other groups. But the crowd was so sparse that immigrant advocates were soon gleefully circulating photos of the featured speaker, Republican Rep. Steve King of Iowa, standing alone on an empty stage.

The rally at a public park in Richmond, Va., earlier this month, along with the subsequent cancellation or postponement of several similar events, points to an emerging reality during Congress' five-week summer recess: Opposition to overhauling immigration laws appears notably muted, almost tame. Meanwhile, advocates who support comprehensive overhaul legislation are claiming they've changed at least a handful of minds among House Republicans.

During Congress' last attempt to remake the immigration system, in 2007, public backlash helped kill the bill as angry calls overwhelmed the Senate switchboard. This summer, other issues, notably President Barack Obama's health care law, seem to be topping the list of voters' concerns.

Constituents opposed to citizenship for immigrants in this country illegally are loudly voicing their views at Republican House members' town hall meetings this month. But advocates of immigration legislation that offers a path to citizenship are having some success getting their supporters to show up, too, even in heavily Republican districts.

"In a sort of immediate sense, Obamacare is what the party has decided they want to make a big deal of in these town halls, so that's frankly siphoning off a lot of outrage because the people ticked off about Obamacare are the same people ticked off about amnesty," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which opposes higher immigration levels.

Plus, the pro-immigration reform side is better organized and funded this time around and many establishment Republicans are on board. "All of that put together means you're not going to see the same level of frantic activity," Krikorian said.

What's less clear is how much it will matter once lawmakers return to Washington in September.

Immigration overhaul legislation, a top second-term priority for Obama, is in limbo after the Democratic-led Senate in June passed a far-reaching bill that includes tens of billions of dollars for border security, new visa programs to bring more high- and low-skilled workers to the country, requirements for employers to check all workers' legal status, and a 13-year path to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants already in the country illegally.

GOP House leaders have rejected that approach, vowing instead to proceed with bills addressing individual immigration issues, beginning with border security. And although by advocates' count more than 20 House Republicans have now declared their support for some kind of citizenship path, the majority of House Republicans remain opposed, creating a potentially unbridgeable divide between the House and the Senate. Congress also faces looming deadlines on the debt ceiling and spending bills to keep the government running. It all adds up to a tough environment for getting an immigration bill to Obama's desk.

Nonetheless, pro-immigrant advocates are claiming success in their August recess efforts to pressure House Republicans to act on immigration in the fall. An unusual and deep-pocketed alliance of Catholics and evangelicals, labor unions, business groups and others have been targeting dozens of GOP members viewed as open to hearing them out, and say they'll have momentum on their side when Congress reconvenes.

"The big story I think of the August recess is that we haven't seen what some had predicted, this major anti-immigrant movement where members of Congress would be heckled into inaction," Galen Carey, vice president of government relations at the National Association of Evangelicals, said on a media call this week to announce a \$400,000, 14-state radio ad campaign in support of immigration reform.

"We've seen very much that that has been a muted voice, but actually the pro-immigrant voice has been rather prominent at many of the town halls that we have observed."

Although there have been no giant public rallies to draw national attention, pro-immigrant advocates have kept up a drumbeat of activity nationwide. They sent some 1,500 supporters into House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy's Bakersfield, Calif., district last week; delivered a 10,000-signature petition to Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas; and launched a statewide tour through Wisconsin, among other activities.

They're pointing to comments in the past few weeks from a handful of House Republicans, including Reps. Daniel Webster of Florida, Aaron Schock of Illinois and Dave Reichert of Washington, indicating qualified support for eventual citizenship for immigrants here illegally. So far, though, such comments have not become too widespread, and it's uncertain they'll add up to a real impetus for action in the fall. But immigrant activists who'd been concerned that this summer could be a repeat of the last immigration fight — or of 2009, when irate voters trashed Obama's health care bill at unruly town hall meetings across the country — are starting to breathe easy.

The Stop Amnesty Tour event Aug. 12 in Richmond was to have been followed by events in other states, several of which subsequently disappeared from the Tea Party Patriots' website, according to an archived version circulated by the pro-immigrant group America's Voice. Organizers said most were going forward or rescheduled and disputed the claim by America's Voice that events were being canceled due to lack of interest.

"I think that when I heard about what happened at the Richmond event, we just look at what can we do to improve going forward, and one thing would be to give people more than 72 hours' notice," said

Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots. The group is working on the events with others, including NumbersUSA, which advocates lower immigration levels. The Black American Leadership Alliance, which opposes allowing more immigrants into the country to compete for jobs, canceled a series of rallies, according to cached copies of Facebook postings collected by America's Voice. But Leah Durant, the group's founder, said those events were being held by local groups and the Black American Leadership Alliance was just trying to help support them. "When I look at the focus of what's going on, I wouldn't say that there's no enthusiasm," Durant said. "I hear from people every day who say they are very concerned about this."

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NEW YORK TIMES: Catholic Leaders to Take Immigration Push to the Pews

By ASHLEY PARKER and MICHAEL D. SHEAR

August 21, 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/22/us/politics/catholic-leaders-to-take-immigration-push-to-the-pews.html>

WASHINGTON — Catholic bishops and priests from major dioceses across the country will preach a coordinated message next month backing changes in immigration policy, with some using Sunday

Masses on Sept. 8 to urge Congressional passage of a legislative overhaul that includes a path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants.

The decision to embrace political action from the pulpit is part of a broader effort by the Roman Catholic Church and other faith groups that support President Obama's call for new immigration laws. It includes advertising and phone calls directed at 60 Catholic Republican lawmakers and "prayerful marches" in Congressional districts where the issue has become a divisive topic.

"We want to try to pull out all the stops," said Kevin Appleby, the director of migration policy at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who said the immigration issue was at a now-or-never moment. "They have to hear the message that we want this done, and if you're not successful during the summer, you're not going to win by the end of the year."

Catholic leaders, who have tried regularly to wield their clout against Mr. Obama on issues like abortion, birth control and same-sex marriage, are betting that their congregations will be able to exert pressure on reluctant Republicans and wavering Democrats to support the president on immigration. They say they are motivated by the Bible's teachings and by the reality that many Latino immigrants are Catholics and represent a critical demographic for the church.

The political campaign by Catholic priests is certain to catch the attention of Catholic members of Congress. Catholics are the largest single religious group in Congress, making up just over 30 percent of the members, according to the Pew Research Center's Religion and Public Life Project. The current House has 136 Catholic members, including Speaker John A. Boehner and 60 other Republicans, according to Pew.

For some Republican members, vocal support by local priests and bishops could provide the religious rationale they need to support an overhaul in the face of criticism from conservatives. "The connection between a pastor and their congregation is really like nothing else in society," said Ali Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum.

White House officials said they were counting on Catholics and members of other religious groups to help pass an immigration overhaul through a Republican-controlled House that is filled with members fighting against one. Cecilia Muñoz, the director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, said Catholic leaders had participated in outreach meetings at the White House.

"It's pretty rare for the Catholics to take on an issue like this straight to the pews," said Ms. Muñoz, who is leading Mr. Obama's immigration effort. She said Catholics had long been advocates for an immigration overhaul, but were now more organized. "This is actually a much more across-the-church effort, and it shows."

Last year, Catholic activism pushed Mr. Obama to compromise on a plan to require religious employers to provide contraception health coverage. The Catholic Church often plays an outsize role in the political debate over abortion and marriage. But it remains unclear how much the Catholic campaign on immigration can change the minds of lawmakers who view the president's proposals as amnesty for lawbreakers.

Representative Daniel Lipinski, a Catholic Democrat from Illinois, said he had listened to the bishops and priests from his district. But he said he viewed their opinions on immigration as less binding than the church's positions on social issues.

"There are some issues that the church speaks authoritatively on, such as abortion, in protecting life," said Mr. Lipinski, who remains skeptical about promises of increased border security. "And then there are prudential judgments that are made, informed by Catholic theology, but it's not something that Catholics are required to follow."

The effort by Catholics started last Thursday — the day of the Feast of the Assumption of Mary — and it will continue through mid-October, when House members are expected to vote on immigration legislation. Already, nearly a dozen major dioceses and archdioceses — including those in Chicago, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Brooklyn and San Antonio, and on Long Island — have committed to holding Masses and events on or around Sept. 8, and the Archdiocese of New York is considering how it might participate, as well.

Not all priests plan to deliver homilies. But the church is calling on bishops across the country to meet with, phone and write their members of Congress in support of an overhaul. Though the Senate passed an immigration overhaul in June, the legislation has stalled in the House, where some conservative members have denounced any broad bill as "amnesty," and others prefer a piecemeal approach.

“We’ve seen on other issues where the Catholic Church leans into an issue, like health care or abortion, people listen,” said Angela Kelley, the vice president of immigration policy at the Center for American Progress. “The same could be said for immigration reform.”

Many religious organizations have played a substantial role in helping to rally support for an immigration overhaul. On Tuesday, the Evangelical Immigration Table started a more than \$400,000 radio ad campaign on Christian and talk radio, which will be heard in 56 Congressional districts across 14 states. But the Catholic Church, in particular, is throwing its full, united might behind an immigration overhaul.

“If a representative gets contacted by their bishop and the representative is Catholic, they listen and they strongly take into consideration the views of the church,” Mr. Appleby said.

One major pilgrimage is already under way in California. Marchers have departed from Sacramento and San Ysidro, which is on the state’s border with Mexico, with plans to convene for a rally on Sept. 2 in Bakersfield, where organizers expect thousands to descend on the district of Representative Kevin McCarthy, the No. 3 House Republican.

“We’ve identified him as the linchpin,” said the Rev. Jon Pedigo of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in San Jose, who is the director of the Catholic bishops’ Justice for Immigrants campaign.

Another pilgrimage is scheduled to kick off in September, passing through the Virginia districts of two Republican congressmen, Eric Cantor, the majority leader, and Robert W. Goodlatte, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. (At a town-hall-style meeting in Virginia on Monday, Mr. Goodlatte rejected what he called a “special” pathway to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants already in the country.)

Representative David Valadao, a Catholic Republican from central California, said he supported an immigration overhaul and citizenship for some illegal immigrants, a sizable number of whom live in his largely agricultural district.

“It would be good to have the conversation and help them understand that this is important for a lot of different reasons,” Mr. Valadao said. “Having your priests talk about it in front of your constituents is always beneficial.”

WASHINGTON POST (Nakamura Post): Evangelical pastors step up pro-immigration campaign

By David Nakamura

August 20, 2013

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/08/20/evangelical-pastors-step-up-pro-immigration-campaign/>

A national coalition of evangelical churches announced Tuesday that it is expanding a radio campaign aimed at convincing Republicans in Congress to support a broad overhaul of immigration laws.

The Evangelical Immigration Table launched a new round of ads in 56 congressional districts across 14 states, an effort that comes as Congress heads into the second half of its five-week summer recess. The ads, featuring local pastors, will be broadcast primarily on Christian radio stations over the next two weeks at a cost of \$400,000, organizers said. They will air in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

The campaign builds on work the coalition has done over the past six months, during which members have held dozens of meetings with congressional offices. The coalition also had aired [a previous round of immigration ads](#) in five states during Congress’s spring recess.

“The combination of this ad buy and our continued prayer for reform gatherings send one clear message: Evangelicals support action by the House of Representatives on immigration,” said Barrett Duke, vice president at the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Duke insisted the campaign has had an effect on the debate over immigration reform, even as House Republicans have continued to oppose a Senate-approved plan that features a broad path to citizenship for immigrants in the country illegally. The message from evangelicals, Duke said, is to provide political support to Republican lawmakers who might consider an immigration bill that includes citizenship provisions for many of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants.

"I don't know whether it's a question of changing minds as much as it is giving more information to the congressmen, helping them to hear from broader range of constituents than what was at one point a very loud, very small minority" opposed to citizenship, Duke said. Some GOP members have "become more nuanced in their expressions and statements" when talking about immigration reform. Pastors involved in the campaign said that immigration is an important issue in their churches, with a growing number of members who are here illegally or have relatives who fear being deported. "I have to deal with the collateral damage of our broken immigration system," pastor Felix Cabrera, of the Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, said on a conference call with reporters Tuesday. "Many are unjustly detained and deported. Many are separated from their families, leaving behind U.S.-born children without parents."

LOS ANGELES TIMES (Wallis Op-Ed): The Bible's case for immigration reform

By Jim Wallis

Aug. 8, 2013

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/opinionla/la-oe-wallis-immigration-evangelicals-pro-reform-20130808,0,6609305.story>

Some say it will take a miracle for [Congress](#) to pass common-sense [immigration reform](#). That miracle may be in the making, helped along by Christians who want to put their faith into action.

On July 25, 300 evangelical Christians from 27 states had 110 meetings with their mostly Republican representatives on Capitol Hill to ask them to let personal faith replace political fear. Republican leaders told us we represented a "new factor" in the debate on immigration, a grass-roots constituency for reform that can influence the political right.

We offered a clear message to every member of the House, but especially those who consider themselves people of faith. Christians, including millions of evangelicals, believe fixing our broken immigration system is long overdue.

We aren't primarily motivated by political considerations or even by the clear economic benefits immigration reform would bring. It is the biblical call to "welcome the stranger" and Jesus' concern for "the least of these" that inspires us. Congress needs to pass immigration reform because it is the morally right thing to do.

Of course, God never ordains or endorses particular pieces of legislation — bills are always the product of compromises and limitations. But the principles contained in the common-sense immigration bill put forward by both [Republicans](#) and Democrats in the [Senate](#) are the right ones. The proposal could bring 11 million people out of the shadows, reunite families, provide an earned, achievable pathway to citizenship, respect the rule of law and secure the border — all goals that are broadly consistent with biblical values.

When three of the largest Republican constituencies — evangelicals, law enforcement officials and business leaders — are in favor of an immigration overhaul, it's hard to fathom the arguments against it. Those whose position on reform is based on political fear, unacknowledged racial prejudice or worries about losing primaries to far-right ideologues are too often the same people who trumpet their religious convictions as guiding their decisions in public life.

Our claim to them is simple: Politicians who are professing Christians need to consider what their faith has to say about immigration. If they oppose reform and refuse to offer compassion to our immigrant brothers and sisters, they should justify their positions on moral grounds. We join with other faith communities in asking for a moral and religious conversation about immigration reform — not just a political one.

We don't think a faith-based argument exists against immigration reform, at least if you're reading the Bible closely. God's passionate, abiding concern for immigrants and foreigners, strangers and travelers — and for our neighbors — is obvious to anyone reading through Scripture.

In the Old Testament, the Lord commands:

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself ... " (Leviticus 19:33-34).

The biblical word "ger" for the foreigners in our midst occurs an astounding 92 times in the Hebrew scriptures, with the consistent instruction to protect them.

In the New Testament, the stranger, and all who are vulnerable, are at the very heart of the Gospel. In the book of Matthew, Jesus offers a vision in which caring for them is the defining mark of God's kingdom:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

That evangelical Christians would finally act to reform the immigration system should surprise no one, and not just for theological reasons. Undocumented immigrants have joined our congregations; we understand the problem firsthand. They are our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. And we know that by reforming our immigration laws, we can create a system that also reflects the best values of our nation and the highest ideals of our faith. We act because, as the book of James reminds us, "faith without works is dead."

Conservative Republican Sen. [Marco Rubio](#) of Florida has connected his faith with his vote:

"I think the biggest change hasn't been in the pulpit; it's been in the pews.... It's one thing when 11 million is a statistic. The other thing is when one of those 11 million is your friend, a human being who you now know ... as a father, as a husband, as a mother, as a worker, as a worshiper.... Our faith has always been about compassion and it compels you to do something. If you took compassion or the principle of compassion out of the Bible, it would be in tatters because it's all over the place."

Compassion is indeed all over the Bible. I pray it will also be found in the [House of Representatives](#). It's time for Christians in the House to stand up in support of immigration reform, or to explain why they won't — as Christians. If they follow their faith, we will see the miracle we need.

Jim Wallis is president of the Washington-based Christian organization Sojourners. His new book is "On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned About Serving the Common Good."

HOUSTON CHRONICLE (Martin Post): Evangelicals launch radio blitz to sway GOP Texans on immigration reform

By Gary Martin

August 21, 2013

<http://blog.chron.com/txpotomac/2013/08/evangelicals-launch-radio-blitz-to-sway-gop-texans-on-immigration-reform/>

An evangelical group has launched a million-dollar radio advertising blitz to sway Republican House members to support immigration reform with a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants.

Evangelical Immigration Table announced Tuesday that they would increase their ad buys on Christian and talk radio by \$400,000, raising the total of expenditures \$1 million.

The ads target lawmakers in 56 congressional districts in 14 states — including GOP members in Texas and California.

"Right now members of Congress are home for the August recess, listening to what their constituents want for the rest of the year," Barrett Duke, president for policy with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"We support broad immigration reform, without delay," Duke said.

Immigrant rights supporters have turned up the heat on lawmakers this summer as Congress spends its time back in congressional districts to meet with constituents about pressing issues.

Likewise, conservative groups and those opposing increased immigration limits are conducting campaigns to pressure lawmakers to vote against increased immigration levels and citizenship.

Many evangelical groups often align with Republicans on social issues.

But the Evangelical Immigration Table has joined with a centrist coalition of groups representing law enforcement and businesses who seek a more humane immigration system and one that would allow those here illegally to gain citizenship.

"There are so many children in our community who fear their parents will be deported," said Mike McClenahan, pastor of the Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in California.

He joined other pastors, including Dr. Stan Coffey, senior pastor of The Church at Quail Creek in Amarillo, and Felix Cabrera, Hispanic pastor for Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, in taping radio ads to be aired in congressional districts.

The ads are running over a two-week period and at saturation levels, Duke said.

Cabrera said he decided to participate, because “through the ads I could be the voice for those who were voiceless.”

He said his Oklahoma City congregation includes immigrant families who have become the “collateral damage of our broken immigration system.”

A Senate bill passed in June has bipartisan support for a 13-year path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, as well as a \$46 billion border security that would double Border Patrol agents and erect border fencing.

The House is taking a more piecemeal approach, eyeing bills that focus on border security, law enforcement and expanding an electronic employee verification program for all businesses.

None of the House bills includes a path to citizenship, and Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said this week his committee would not entertain citizenship proposals. Republicans in the lower chamber, meanwhile, are being pressured on the political right and left on the citizenship issue.

Opponents of citizenship have called citizenship an amnesty that would reward law breakers.

And groups like NumbersUSA, which advocate lower levels of immigration, are targeting lawmakers who support citizenship in conservative districts with telephone calls and advertising.

Evangelical Immigration Table, meanwhile, have signed up 60,000 people for a grassroots effort called “Pray for Reform,” designed to reach out the wavering or uncommitted lawmakers on immigration reform.

In addition, the \$1 million ad campaign is running in 14 states to convince lawmakers in these states that when they will return to Washington they have support at home for reform legislation that includes an earned pathway to citizenship.

The 12 lawmakers targeted in Texas include: Ted Poe, John Culberson, Kevin Brady, Michael McCaul, Randy Weber, Pete Olson, Sam Johnson, Joe Barton, Pete Sessions, Mac Thornberry, Bill Flores and Blake Farenthold.

Farenthold was targeted by immigrant rights groups earlier this month with a petition drive and rally at his Corpus Christi office.

In a twist, Farenthold’s congressional office notified local Republicans who showed up to counter and disrupt the rally, drawing national headlines.

In California, considered a key battleground in the immigration reform debate, eight lawmakers are being targeted by the Evangelical Immigration Table ads.

Those lawmakers include: Doug LaMalfa, Paul Cook, Devin Nunes, Kevin McCarthy, Buck McKeon, Gary Miller, Ed Royce, Darrell Issa.

McCarthy backs legal status but has stopped short of supporting citizenship for the undocumented immigrants.

The House Majority Whip, McCarthy is being targeted in TV ads by a group opposed to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, Californians for Population Stabilization of Santa Barbara.

In addition to Texas and California, other states where the ads will be aired include: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina and Wisconsin.

Ran in:

San Antonio Express-News

<http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Ad-blitz-aimed-at-changing-GOP-minds-on-4747405.php>

BAPTIST PRESS: Mistrust on border security 'biggest hurdle'

By Tom Strode

Aug 26, 2013

<http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=40971>

WASHINGTON (BP) -- A lack of trust in the Obama administration on border security is preventing most evangelical Christians from embracing legislative reform that aids undocumented immigrants, a Southern Baptist public policy expert said.

"If they feel the border can be secured, and they're confident that it has been, they're prepared to do something for the 11 million folks who are here. They want to make sure that we don't do this again. And they don't trust the administration to do it," Barrett Duke told a Washington, D.C., audience regarding the viewpoint of Southern Baptists and other evangelicals on immigration reform.

Duke offered his analysis in the midst of an August congressional recess that divides Senate passage of reform legislation from possible House of Representatives action this fall. Senators approved a comprehensive bill in June, but House leaders have said their chamber will consider its own legislation. The Senate-passed measure grants the verification of border security requirements -- and the authority to waive the requirements in some cases -- to the secretary of Homeland Security. That is a problem for many evangelicals and other concerned citizens.

The House has "to figure out a way to get it out of the hands" of the administration, Duke said at an Aug. 12 panel discussion at the Microsoft Innovation and Policy Center. He recommended Congress "set up a quasi-federal corporation whose job is to build the infrastructure" at the border. Congress, not the administration, would sign off on its implementation, he said.

"Somehow they have to create a break between where the administration is and getting that done," said Duke, vice president for public policy at the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "[T]hat's the biggest hurdle right now."

The ERLC is focusing on congressional districts in its efforts on behalf of legislation that includes security at the border and in the workplace, as well as a path toward citizenship for those who qualify and are willing to pay fines and to meet other requirements.

"[W]hether or not we're going to get the votes in the House really depends on the local activity, not so much the activity" in Washington, Duke said.

The ERLC will concentrate on "helping congressmen hear from their districts, churches, people in their districts, so that they understand there is a group of people within their own districts who care about" the issue, he said.

In addition to its own efforts, the ERLC works for broad immigration reform as part of the Evangelical Immigration Table, a coalition of evangelical leaders. EIT announced Aug. 20 its latest radio efforts to influence members of Congress. The coalition launched more than \$400,000 in ad buys in 56 congressional districts across 14 states.

In a phone conference call, Duke told reporters, "The rule of law and love of neighbor are both necessary values for any civilized people. They don't have to be competing values."

Other Southern Baptists speaking on the conference call were Felix Cabrera, Hispanic pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City; Stan Coffey, pastor of The Church at Quail Creek in Amarillo, Texas; and Bob Lowman, executive director of Metrolina Baptist Association in Charlotte, N.C.

The ERLC and EIT have promoted principles for immigration reform, but neither has endorsed any specific legislation.

The "active engagement of the evangelical community" has been "the main game-changer" between this year's stronger immigration reform effort and the most recent serious attempt in 2006, Duke told the audience at the Aug. 12 panel discussion.

Though the ERLC backed immigration reform in 2006, Duke said, "Most Southern Baptists at that point really hadn't thought very much about the issue of immigration reform. In fact, most of what they thought about it was negative.... The biggest difference then between 2006 and now is about seven years of reflection and the opportunity then for Southern Baptists and most evangelicals to begin to think about the issue of immigration reform, not only through the lens of the rule of law but also through a biblical lens and a humanitarian lens."

Immigration reform also has become a personal matter as Southern Baptists and other evangelicals have evangelized immigrants in their communities, Duke said.

"More and more of them are in our churches, and our pastors and our congregants are getting to know them," he said. "Once you begin to get to know a people, you no longer think of them as the other, those people out there. You have a more personal understanding of them, and it becomes personal for you."

And as they've begun to reflect on these immigrants as people ..., they've begun to change their understanding of this issue to the point where it's no longer just a rule of law question. It's also a biblical, humanitarian question."

In 2011, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix approved a resolution on immigration reform that called for the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus while pursuing justice and compassion. The measure urged the government to make a priority of border security and holding businesses accountable in their hiring. It also requested public officials establish after securing the borders "a just and compassionate path to legal status, with appropriate restitutionary measures, for those undocumented immigrants already living in our country." It specified the resolution was not to be interpreted as supporting amnesty.

BLOOMBERG BUSINESS: Congress Hits the Brakes on Immigration Reform

By Kristen Hinman

September 10, 2013

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-09-10/congress-hits-the-brakes-on-immigration-reform>

This week, advocates of comprehensive immigration reform will stage events in Washington, where they'll try to make news by getting arrested. Next week, they'll make noise outside the D.C. offices of corporations that give big money to Republicans and are believed to have sway over them on the issue. On Oct. 5, activists will hold rallies in more than 60 other cities.

Will any of this get Congress's attention?

Earlier this year, the prospects for immigration reform looked somewhat promising after the Senate approved a bill with bipartisan backing just six months into the start of the new Congress. Advocates saw lawmakers' five-week August recess as an opportunity to target Republicans in the House while they were at home in their districts and launch pressure campaigns for a vote this fall.

The Alliance for Citizenship, a coalition of scores of groups from across the political spectrum, says its members took part in 1,200 events nationwide. The packed the audiences at town halls and staged press conferences outside the offices of lawmakers who weren't holding public forums. The Evangelical Immigration Table, a group of conservative religious leaders, plowed \$400,000 into ads on Christian radio stations.

As a result of the agitating, activists say two dozen Republicans have expressed public support for immigration reform. "I can say very confidently that we won the recess," says Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum.

That might indeed count as some kind of victory, considering that Republican leaders [basically forbade](#) members from engaging constituents on the topic this summer. Yet now that Congress is back from vacation it's far from clear that the House will do anything with immigration reform. A [welcome-back memo](#) from Majority Leader Eric Cantor says only that the House "may begin considering" [a series of bills](#) that a House committee has already passed, none of which include a path to citizenship—which is the big victory activists are after.

What's more, Congress is only back for nine days before the House is slated to take a five-day break beginning Sept. 23. Members can't go home without having done something about extending the federal budget, which expires on Sept. 30. Come October, there's a debt ceiling deadline that Congress will have to deal with. Before any of that, there's obviously the massive Syria problem to resolve. Advocates have long known that 2013 would likely be make-or-break for immigration reform because of the perceived liabilities that next year's midterms elections bring for Republicans who sign on to a comprehensive overhaul. Getting the job done in September was never the goal, activists say. October seemed more realistic.

But the Syria crisis threatens to make immigration reform become even more of an afterthought. "Now it seems like there could be an even longer timetable," says Kim Propeack, politics director at Casa de Maryland, a group that's organizing a large rally in Washington on Oct. 8. Using the crowded calendar as an excuse not to act is a "complete cop-out," says Tom Snyder, manager of the AFL-CIO's immigration reform campaign. "If they want to act, they can act. They can find time on the calendar," Snyder says, adding, "We're not going to swallow, 'We just don't have the time.'"

Activists say they're planning other events for October to press for a vote this fall. Representative Mario Diaz-Balart, a Florida Republican who's working on a reform proposal, was blunt about the prospects

for such a vote with Bloomberg News this week: [he said](#) he figures there's a five percent chance a bill passes by year's end.

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES: Evangelicals take to Illinois airwaves to promote immigration reform

By Francine Knowles

August 20, 2013

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/22056293-418/evangelicals-take-to-illinois-airwaves-to-promote-immigration-reform.html>

An evangelical group supporting comprehensive immigration reform is spending more than \$400,000 on radio advertisements running in Illinois and 13 other states, featuring pastors asking listeners to contact their legislators and pray for reform.

With a Senate-passed comprehensive reform bill stuck in the House and facing stiff opposition from Republicans, the ad campaign targets Republicans in five congressional districts in Illinois and a total of 60 key members of Congress home for the August recess. The campaign also focuses on districts where a large number of evangelicals reside.

The Evangelical Immigration Table, a national group founded by heads of evangelical organizations that range from the conservative to the liberal, launched the ad campaign.

The ads running in Illinois feature Lynne Hybels, co-founder of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington.

"The lives of 11 million of our neighbors hang in the balance as Congress seeks to reform our immigration system," says Hybels on the ad.

"The Gospel calls us as Christians to compassion and justice," says Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, who joins Hybels on the ads.

"I'm asking you to join a growing movement of Christians who are appealing to our political leaders for immigration solutions that respect each persons' God-given dignity."

The ad also asks for support of reforms that establish a path toward citizenship, protect family unity and the rule of law, guarantee secure borders and ensure fairness to taxpayers.

The ads send the message to legislators that they have support from the evangelical community at home for comprehensive reform, said Barrett Duke, a vice president with the Southern Baptist Convention.

He spoke on a conference call announcing the ads Tuesday.

Others who spoke on the call said they've felt compelled to act because they've seen their church members, many of whom are undocumented, and others in their communities hurt by a broken immigration system. They also contended their stance is biblically based.

The radio ads are part of the Evangelical Immigration Table's "pray4reform" campaign in which some 60,000 people have participated. To date the Evangelical Immigration Table has spent nearly \$1 million on advertising and made numerous visits to legislators and their staffs. The latest ad campaign is its biggest ad buy yet.

The Republican congressmen whose districts have been targeted are: Peter Roskam in the western suburbs, Randy Hultgren in the west and northern suburbs, and Rodney Davis, John Shimkus and Adam Kinzinger downstate.

The group's efforts also include an "I Was A Stranger" campaign, which encourages people to read one Bible verse a day and "listen to what God says about the immigrants among us."

Representatives acknowledged evangelicals aren't united on the issue and said they don't know if they've won over any legislators. But the group has enabled members of Congress to hear from a broader range of evangelicals on the issue and made progress in educating evangelicals, they noted.

Still, the path toward passage of comprehensive legislation remains rocky. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte said at a townhall meeting Monday that he rejects giving illegal immigrants a special pathway to citizenship and that he'll do everything he can to ensure the House never takes up the Senate bill. He will proceed with individual bills, he said.

CHRISTIAN POST: Evangelical Immigration Table Responds to Accusation it is Elite-Driven, 'Grasstops' Movement

By Napp Nazworth

August 20, 2013

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/evangelical-immigration-table-responds-to-accusation-it-is-elite-driven-grasstops-movement-102662/cpt>

Representatives of the Evangelical Immigration Table responded Tuesday to accusations that it is a movement of leaders without followers. They also announced an effort to use Congress' August recess to press for immigration reform with \$400,000 worth of ads in 56 key congressional districts.

The argument that the EIT is mostly a "grasstops," rather than "grassroots," movement came recently from [evangelical author Jonathan Merritt](#) and [Institute on Religion and Democracy President Mark Tooley](#). (A Christian Post analysis of these arguments can be found [here](#). Responses to that analysis from Merritt and Tooley can be found [here](#) and [here](#).)

When asked about the criticism, Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research at the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, answered that the EIT clearly does not speak for all evangelicals and part of the purpose of the ad buy is to convince those evangelicals who do not support them of their position. Galen Carey, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Evangelicals, added that many of the radio ads were intentionally bought for areas of the country with a high concentration of evangelicals.

"It's clear to everybody," Duke said, "we're not unanimous in our call for immigration reform. There are still some folks, including in evangelical life who aren't supportive, but they are clearly a minority."

He added, though, that the EIT's financial support and the appearance of pro-immigration reform evangelicals at townhall meetings this month are indicative of a grassroots movement. The money for the ad buys came from "lots of different sources," he said. They are "primarily conservative," and they are "all kinds of folks, not just grasstops folks," from "all different levels of society."

Plus, the "tenor at townhalls" has been "much different than people were expecting," he explained, as pro-immigration reform voices have spoken out and the anti-immigration reform voices have not been as strong as expected.

Mike McClenahan, pastor at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church, Solana Beach, Calif., is one of the pastors lending their voice to the radio ads. Speaking for himself, McClenahan said, his decision to join the cause came from the bottom-up, not top-down. Though he never expected to be involved in immigration reform, it was his congregation who came to him and convinced him to get involved.

"I never thought I would be talking on this call or a radio ad," he recalled. "So it really has been the people of our congregation. ... From my perspective, it's not top-down at all. I feel like I'm being brought along by members of our congregation."

Carey added that evangelicals tend to be grassroots naturally because many evangelical congregations have a bottom-up governance structure.

"In most evangelical churches, we have a bottom-up leadership," he explained. "Many churches actually choose their pastors ... so we have built into our system very much a grassroots system of advocacy and even of identifying issues that will be addressed. That's why it's hard, in the beginning to coordinate a movement like ours, because we are so decentralized. But when you see the same issue bubbling up in so many places, it can be very powerful."

Ran in:

Black Christian News Network One

<http://www.blackchristiannews.com/news/2013/08/evangelical-immigration-table-representatives-respond-to-criticism.html>

CHRISTIANITY TODAY: Radio Ads Continue 'Largest Ever' Immigration Reform Effort by Evangelicals

By Melissa Steffan

August 21, 2013

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2013/january/new-video-launches-largest-ever-immigration-reform-effort.html>

Update (Aug. 21): Local pastors will tape radio ads in 56 congressional districts in 14 states, part of the Evangelical Immigration Table's [latest](#) and [biggest push](#) for comprehensive immigration reform.

According to the [Washington Post](#):

The ads, featuring local pastors, will be broadcast primarily on Christian radio stations over the next two weeks at a cost of \$400,000, organizers said.

They will air in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

CT noted the EIT's [continued efforts](#) (and President Obama's [response](#)) in advance of a sweeping reform bill [passing](#) the Senate in June, as well as the [leading role](#) played in the EIT by World Relief's Jenny Yang.

COLORADO PUBLIC RADIO: Congressional Recess: Immigrant Activists Pressure Colo. GOP Congressmen

By Lesley McClurg

September 5, 2013

[http://www.cpr.org/#load_article|Congressional Recess Immigrant Rights Activists Press House Reps](http://www.cpr.org/#load_article|Congressional+Recess+Immigrant+Rights+Activists+Press+House+Reps)

A broad coalition of immigrant rights activists has seized the past five weeks to reach out to Colorado's representatives. Activists have flooded town halls, written countless letters, and lobbied hard to gain GOP support for an immigration overhaul.

"Over the last month, here in Colorado, we have seen just a tsunami of activity," said Brendan Green, policy director for the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition. "Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of actions are literally happening every week."

Green says this summer's fight has been one sided.

"The most striking thing that we've seen is the lack of opposition," he said. "There's no organized movement as we've seen in the past."

Green points to the unusual alliances that are advocating for change this year, like conservative farmers, deep-pocketed GOP donors, and faith leaders.

At a recent town hall in Colorado Springs, pastor Amber Odvody addressed Representative Doug Lamborn.

"My question would be, how do you as a person of faith respond to immigration, with the knowledge that every human being is made in the image of God?"

"We can't do everything for everybody," Congressman Lamborn responded, "and our first duty is to the citizens and the people living here in this country."

Lamborn has continually criticized the U.S. Senate's bi-partisan immigration reform package that passed in late June. He says the bill will lead to amnesty and is therefore unacceptable. His words received loud applause from the crowd at the town hall - a reflection of how strongly many conservative voters still oppose a path to citizenship for people in the country illegally.

Faith leaders are pushing hard to win over those voters. In August the Evangelical Immigration Table, a national coalition of Christians, spent more than \$400,000 on a nationwide radio campaign.

Michelle Warren is one of many Christian leaders in Colorado lobbying for changes to immigration policy. She says the national movement [pray for reform](#) inspired her to start reading her bible differently.

"It says God has ... a special heart for the immigrant," she said. "He has a heart for all people, but he specifically lists out the widow, the orphan, the foreigner - or what we would call the immigrant."

Warren hopes the message will shift the views of Colorado's conservative lawmakers. Currently, neither Republican Representative Scott Tipton of Cortez nor Cory Gardner of Yuma supports a path to citizenship. The lone Colorado GOP Congressman that differs on the issue is Mike Coffman of Aurora.

"We have to be compassionate," he told Colorado Public Radio. "I don't want to have to break up these families. And so we allow them to come out of the shadows and have a temporary legal status."

That's a big turnaround for Coffman. Not long ago he completely ruled that out. But then, his district was redrawn to include a much larger Hispanic population. When that happened, activists like Brendan Green immediately began the full court press. Green says they sent numerous delegations of families to speak to Coffman.

The Congressman says he was moved by their stories.

"It's different, I think, when you're looking at an issue on paper than when you're working with people that are sitting across from you," Coffman said.

Critics say Coffman's switch is all about winning reelection next year, in one of the most contested seats in the nation. Coffman denies that, saying he is representing a very different district than he had before. Coffman says the U.S border must be secured before he'd consider a path to citizenship for adults who are in the country illegally. But, even the fact that he's willing to consider it reflects the shifting ground under the GOP. Advocates hope the U.S. House will vote on the issue before the end of the year.

FOX NEWS LATINO: Immigration Reform Does Not Rest During Congressional Summer Recess

Aug. 21, 2013

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2013/08/21/immigration-reform-does-not-rest-during-congressional-summer-recess/>

It may be quieter than usual on Capitol Hill with lawmakers on summer recess.

But the pressure to act on immigration hardly has subsided.

In town halls back in the politicians' home districts, the topic of immigration is arising, and often dominating, as lawmakers meet with their constituents to gauge their feelings on various issues. And several groups on opposing sides of the immigration debate have planned rallies and ad campaigns aimed at influencing the immigration reform effort.

Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican who was part of the so-called Gang of Eight – four Democrats and four Republicans – who drafted a comprehensive immigration reform bill that the Senate passed in June, has spent part of his summer recess urging his constituents to lobby the state's congressional delegation to support the measure.

But in a Virginia town hall, Republican Rep. Bob Goodlatte, chairman of the powerful Judiciary Committee, told the audience that that the House must chart its own course on immigration even if it never results in a bill President Barack Obama can sign.

He said that he'll do everything he can to ensure the House never takes up the Senate's comprehensive immigration bill. Goodlatte said the House will proceed with individual immigration bills once lawmakers return to Washington in September from their summer recess, beginning with bills on interior enforcement, border security and workplace verification.

Speaking to a capacity crowd of more than 200 people at a local government building in Verona, Va., Goodlatte gave no sign of altering the position he's been articulating for months: Immigrants here illegally should not get what he terms a "special" pathway to citizenship, which is what he sees in the Senate bill.

The resistance by many conservative Republicans in the House to the Senate bill, and to providing a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants, prompted a coalition of evangelical leaders to launch a \$400,000 radio ad campaign on Tuesday targeted at the home districts of 60 members of Congress. The ads, which will air over two weeks in 14 states, ask for prayers and passage of comprehensive immigration reform.

"Millions of evangelicals look to Christian radio for news and perspective on social, moral and spiritual issues," said Galen Carey, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Evangelicals, in a statement. "Hearing local evangelical leaders present a biblically informed call for a just, compassionate and effective immigration system will unleash a new wave of support for reform."

On Thursday, leaders of immigrant rights groups, labor unions, and faith institutions plan a demonstration in Manhattan for comprehensive immigration reform, and against the record number of deportations under the Obama administration.

They also plan, according to a news release, to "send a message to House leadership that the fight for immigrant families will continue until the House produces comprehensive legislation that includes a path to citizenship."

In Florida, Sen. Marco Rubio, another member of the Gang of Eight, has steered clear of discussions about the measure – particularly the part of it that calls for legalizing undocumented immigrants, an idea that is unpopular with many of his conservative constituents.

At a meeting the Republican senator had with constituents recently, a local radio talk-show host asked Rubio why he had worked with Democrats on legislation that would give undocumented immigrants an eventual path to citizenship.

"We know you, and we've always loved you," Doc Washburn said, "and yet you're pushing this and it's a real problem for us."

The exchange — and Rubio's reluctance to raise the issue after spending months advocating for comprehensive immigration reform — underscore why the potential presidential candidate has undertaken a sort of image-rehabilitation tour, promoting his conservative bona fides to crowds in Florida's most Republican bastions.

Once embraced by the tea party, Rubio's name can now elicit boos and catcalls at rallies. And since he began championing immigration changes, his standing has slipped in some polls.

The senator acknowledges the fallout. He told Republicans in Panama City, "Politically, it has not been a pleasant experience, to say the least." But his aides insist that his pivot to health care is driven by policy, not politics, that he's simply giving the U.S. House its own space to tackle immigration.

In California, Rep. Karen Bass, a Democrat, expressed pessimism about the odds of a comprehensive immigration reform bill passing this year.

"The bill making their way through the House I would not want to see go anywhere — they are very onerous; there is no pathway to citizenship in the bills."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

GANNETT: Evangelicals air pro-immigration ads targeting lawmakers in 14 states, including Alabama

By Mary Orndorff Troyan, Gannett Washington Bureau

August 31, 2013

http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20130831/NEWS02/308310044/Evangelicals-air-pro-immigration-ads-targeting-lawmakers-14-states-including-Alabama?nckick_check=1

WASHINGTON — A national coalition of evangelicals supporting a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants has been targeting the Birmingham-area district of Rep. Spencer Bachus as part of a national radio campaign that started last week in 14 states.

The Evangelical Immigration Table is spending \$400,000 on radio ads on Christian and talk radio stations in 56 congressional districts to support immigration legislation that would secure the border, keep immigrant families together and give some of those in the country illegally a chance to earn citizenship.

The ads are playing while lawmakers are in their districts during the final weeks of Congress' summer recess, which ends Sept. 9.

"They will return to Washington knowing they have support at home for taking action on reform," said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research with the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Organizers said the 56 Republican districts were chosen because those members are on committees that play a key role in the immigration debate, or they have a strong evangelical community. Both would be true of Alabama's 6th congressional district.

The district includes Birmingham's suburbs and some of the city's largest and most influential churches.

In addition, Bachus, R-Vestavia Hills, is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, where the GOP is hashing out immigration legislation.

Bachus is already receptive to the evangelical campaign. The veteran lawmaker — who did not favor Alabama's tough immigration law — supports a path to citizenship for those who have earned it.

"I don't think we ought to have two classes of long-term residents," Bachus said recently on Capitol Hill. Congress is divided on whether changes to the immigration system should allow some of the 11 million already in the country illegally a chance to stay.

The bipartisan Senate bill allows for citizenship status after several years for those who don't have a criminal record and pay fines. But in the House, GOP leaders are mostly discussing a path to legal status short of citizenship.

The House bills currently pending from Republicans address border security, employment verification and enforcement of immigration laws, but nothing so far on the status of the 11 million.

The evangelical leaders backing the ad campaign are calling for citizenship.

"I could be a voice for those who are voiceless in my church and congregation," said Felix Cabrera, a Hispanic pastor at a Baptist church in Oklahoma City, and one of the pastors in the ad campaign. "I have to deal with the collateral damage our broken immigration system brings to my people."

He said detentions and deportations have broken up families and left U.S.-born children alone in the country without parents. He said the Bible "calls me to love them and welcome them and treat them justly."

Those involved in the Evangelical Immigration Table said their work represents the grassroots of their congregations, not just church leaders.

"This is not top-down at all. I feel like I'm being brought along by members of my congregation," said Mike McClenahan, pastor at a Presbyterian church in Solana Beach, Calif.

Tim Johnson, a spokesman for Bachus, said the congressman "welcomes the expression of all views."

It is not unusual for Bachus, a conservative Republican, to take up social justice, religious freedom and human rights causes important to evangelicals. Over the years, he has been a leading advocate for relieving the debt of developing nations and for discouraging oil companies from doing business in Sudan during that country's brutal civil war.

The ads are also running in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

They are competing with spots funded by other organizations that encourage House members to disregard the Senate bill — they say a path to citizenship amounts to "amnesty" — and focus instead on border security.

Ran in:

Dayton Daily News (OH)

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/ap/ap/military/evangelicals-target-alabama-with-immigration-ads/nZTp4/>

Montgomery Advertiser (AL)

http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20130831/NEWS02/308310044/Evangelicals-air-pro-immigration-ads-targeting-lawmakers-14-states-including-Alabama?nclick_check=1

Springfield News-Sun (OH)

<http://www.springfieldnewssun.com/ap/ap/military/evangelicals-target-alabama-with-immigration-ads/nZTp4/>

GANNETT (SC): Evangelicals target Upstate congressional districts with immigration ads (8 hits)

By Mary Orndorff Troyan, Gannett Washington Bureau

August 21, 2013

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130821/NEWS/308210009/Evangelicals-target-Upstate-congressional-districts-immigration-ads>

WASHINGTON — A national coalition of evangelicals supporting a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants is targeting two Upstate congressional districts as part of a national radio campaign that started Tuesday in 14 states.

The Evangelical Immigration Table is spending \$400,000 on radio ads on Christian and talk radio stations in 56 Republican congressional districts to support legislation that would secure the border, keep immigrant families together and allow some immigrants in the country illegally a chance to earn citizenship.

The ads will play while lawmakers are in their districts during the final weeks of Congress' summer recess, which ends Sept. 9.

“They will return to Washington knowing they have support at home for taking action on reform,” said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research with the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Organizers said the 56 Republican districts were chosen because those members are on committees that play a key role in the immigration debate, or they have a strong evangelical community.

In South Carolina, the ads are airing in the 4th District represented by Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg, and the 5th District represented by Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land.

The ads will compete with other organizations using the congressional recess to encourage House members to disregard the Senate bill — they say a path to citizenship amounts to “amnesty” — and focus instead on border security.

Gowdy is chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee that focuses on immigration and is a key negotiator.

He has focused most prominently on aspects of immigration reform that involve securing the border and empowering local police to assist in stronger enforcement of immigration laws. He has also embraced the moral argument that some people here illegally should be allowed to stay.

On Tuesday, Gowdy, through a spokeswoman, welcomed the evangelicals’ ad campaign.

“The status quo has left our national security jeopardized with porous borders, our laws unenforced, our economy missing necessary skills, and families separated for years,” Gowdy said.

“But to achieve a long-term solution, any plan must first guarantee border security and restore enforcement of our laws. So while immigration is complex, I am encouraged by any groups who enter this discussion in good faith and are intent on looking for solutions.”

The South Carolina ad features the voice of Rev. Jim Goodroe, director of missions for Spartanburg County Baptist Network, which includes 95 churches that have significant immigrant populations from all over the world. He taped a similar ad that ran in March.

“One of the things we’re trying to do is trying to get Christians to first of all think about anything from a Christian perspective, including immigration ... and realize that any immigrant is a person first,”

Goodroe said in a recent interview in Washington.

“Immigration is an issue, a subject, but immigrants are people like you and me. At bottom, we need to treat everybody with respect.”

Congress is divided on whether changes to the immigration system should allow some of the 11 million people in the country illegally a chance to stay.

The bipartisan Senate bill allows for citizenship status after several years for those who don’t have a criminal record and pay fines. But in the House, GOP leaders are mostly discussing a path to legal status short of citizenship.

The House bills currently pending from Republicans address border security, employment verification, temporary agricultural workers, and enforcement of immigration laws, but nothing so far on the status of the 11 million.

The evangelical leaders backing the ad campaign are calling for citizenship.

“I could be a voice for those who are voiceless in my church and congregation,” said Felix Cabrera, a Hispanic pastor at a Baptist church in Oklahoma City and one of the pastors in the ad campaign. “I have to deal with the collateral damage our broken immigration system brings to my people.”

He said detentions and deportations have broken up families and left U.S.-born children alone in the country without parents. He said the Bible “calls me to love them and welcome them and treat them justly.”

Those involved in the Evangelical Immigration Table said their work represents the grassroots of their congregations, not just church leaders.

“This is not top-down at all. I feel like I’m being brought along by members of my congregation,” said Mike McClenahan, pastor at a Presbyterian church in Solana Beach, Calif.

The ad campaign also is running in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

Contact Mary Orndorff Troyan at mtroyan@usatoday.com

Ran in:

Greenville News

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130821/NEWS/308210009/Evangelicals-target-Upstate-congressional-districts-immigration-ads>

The Island Packet (Hilton Head & Beaufort, SC)

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2013/08/20/2640041/gowdy-and-mulvaney-targeted-in.html>

NKY Cincinnati

<http://nky.cincinnati.com/article/BS/20130821/NEWS/308210009/Evangelicals-target-Upstate-congressional-districts-immigration-ads?odyssey=mod|lateststories>

Star-Gazette (NY)

<http://www.stargazette.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

The State

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/08/20/2931765/gowdy-and-mulvaney-targeted-in.html>

The Sun News (Myrtle Beach, SC)

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/2013/08/20/3657793/gowdy-and-mulvaney-targeted-in.html>

Wausau Daily Herald (WI)

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

WLTX (Columbia, SC)

<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/246834/2/Evangelicals-Target-SC-Congressmen-with-Immigration-Ads>

HUFFINGTON POST: Pro-Immigration Reform Evangelical Group Makes \$400,000 Ad Buy

By Elise Foley

August 20, 2013

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/20/immigration-reform-evangelicals_n_3785527.html

WASHINGTON -- Evangelical Immigration Table, a coalition of evangelical Christian leaders, launched its biggest ad buy yet Tuesday in support of comprehensive immigration reform, spending \$400,000 on radio ads airing in 56 congressional districts represented by Republicans.

The group supports comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, which has stalled in the House of Representatives after Republican lawmakers there declined to take up a bill that passed the Senate in June. The ads will air on Christian and other radio stations in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission told reporters on a conference call that the group chose to target lawmakers -- like Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.), who chairs the immigration subcommittee -- who it thinks can be persuaded to support reform. The group also focused on districts with large evangelical populations.

"We want to make sure that they're hearing from their members within their districts and from the broader evangelical community as well," he said. "These are folks that we believe are key folks within Congress that we need to make sure that we stay connected with throughout the rest of this year as they're working on immigration reform."

Funding for the ads came from a number of sources, largely conservative donors from business groups, families and individuals, Duke said. Much of the Evangelical Immigration Table's behind-the-scenes support has come from National Immigration Forum, a non-partisan group that [has been criticized](#) by some conservatives for accepting donations from George Soros' Open Society Foundations. But

National Immigration Forum director Ali Noorani said funding from Soros' group has not gone toward the evangelical efforts.

"Financial resources for the Table's work come from a range of supporters, including new conservative donors such as Paul Singer, the Vista Hermosa Foundation and others," Noorani said in an email. "In fact, the environment is so different now, that traditional liberal donors such as George Soros are not even asked to support the Evangelical Immigration Table's work.

"But really, this effort transcends politics," he added. "The story is not just that conservative businesses, families and individuals are supporting a broad movement for reform. It's really the 60,000-plus evangelicals in America who have signed up as Pray for Reform prayer partners, and the local congregations whose hearts and minds have changed."

Though many Republicans in the House have said they oppose a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, advocates hope they can change their minds by showing support from traditionally GOP-allied evangelical and business groups. Reform supporters are lobbying around 120 Republican members to support the Senate "gang of eight" immigration bill, particularly during the August recess. Evangelicals involved with the Immigration Table said they are particularly interested in reform because of the Bible's discussion of immigrants and their own church members' experiences. Mike McClenahan, the pastor of Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in Solana Beach, Calif., said members of his congregation asked him to get involved in the immigration reform push.

"To me this is not really hypothetical or even political, but it's very personal," he said. "Because there are so many children in our community who are living in fear of their parents being deported, and in the church, the kind of relationships that we have are covenant relationships, we commit our lives to each other. So those children are not their children, but they're really our children."

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES: Evangelical Coalition Makes Big Ad Buy For US Immigration Reform

By Laura Matthews

August 22, 2013

<http://www.ibtimes.com/immigration-reform-2013-evangelical-coalition-makes-big-ad-buy-counter-opponents-reform-1395975>

The Evangelical Immigration Table is hoping the responses will end up getting back to Washington lawmakers, who are still debating a 2013 [immigration reform bill](#) that has stalled in the House after passing the Senate.

The ads will run in 56 congressional districts, mostly on Christian radio. The ad buy is the coalition's largest since it was organized in June 2012.

Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research at Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said the ads are "really speaking to the people within these districts and encouraging them to become more engaged on immigration reform themselves."

"Ultimately, that will end up filtering back to their congressmen," he added. "The ads are speaking to evangelicals principally within these media areas."

Duke's commission is a part of the larger coalition of about 12 organizations representing more than 100,000 congregations. It isn't the first significant immigration ad purchase the coalition has made. In spring, it spent at least \$200,000 on ads supporting the cause. Through the coalition's eyes, immigration reform would legalize, as much as possible, the undocumented people living in the country so that they can work legally, pay their fair share in [taxes](#), receive protection by the law and get a path to citizenship. Duke said this path must not be special or automatic.

"We do support the ability of people who meet the same kind of standards and requirements that anybody else would meet," he added. "We do support the need for anybody in this country to be able to ultimately obtain citizenship, including those who will be addressed by our immigration reform."

There are an estimated 11 million people living in America without legal documentation, 40 percent of whom are believed to have overstayed their visa.

The Evangelical Immigration Table's website said current U.S. immigration laws have [created a moral, economic and political crisis](#).

"Initiatives to remedy this crisis have led to polarization and name calling in which opponents have misrepresented each other's positions as open borders and amnesty versus deportations of millions,"

the group said on its website. "This false choice has led to an unacceptable political stalemate at the federal level at a tragic human cost."

Duke wants people being targeted in the districts to think about the biblical perspective on caring for strangers, not just focus totally on questions of law and order.

"We think that, as they integrate their understanding of biblical teaching with the perspective on the importance of the rule of law, that they'll want to do both things: they'll want to be sure that the law is upheld but also find a way that responds compassionately toward those who are here in our country, oftentimes with no real place to go if they were to be deported," he said.

"We felt like we needed to make sure [immigration opponents] wasn't the only voice heard in these districts ... tempting to persuade the people in those districts to think negatively toward immigration reform," he added. "Part of it was an effort to just make sure a positive voice was out in these areas as well making sure folks heard both sides of the stories, so that they could make their minds up with more information."

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER: Catholics, evangelicals work toward Congress' passage of comprehensive immigration

By Pat Perriello

Aug. 28, 2013

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/catholics-evangelicals-work-toward-congress-passage-comprehensive-immigration>

The congressional recess seems to be providing a vehicle for some movement on the immigration bill stalled in the House of Representatives. We are seeing [evangelicals applying pressure](#) to resistant members of Congress to support comprehensive immigration.

Evangelicals are asking their congregations to contact their legislators and pray for reform. They are targeting specific representatives in Illinois and across the country to gain support for the passage of this reform legislation.

The Evangelical Immigration Table, which includes groups both conservative and liberal and everything in between, is sponsoring a series of ads. Additional support comes from Barrett Duke, the vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, who spoke on a conference call supporting the ads. Support also comes from the [Catholic Alliance for the Common Good](#), which has been targeting individual members of Congress. According to the group, several conservative members of Congress have changed their minds and agreed to support the bill. The alliance has enlisted the words of Pope Francis and Catholic social teaching in their efforts.

It is heartening to see evangelicals and Catholics working toward the same goal. It would be even more powerful if they would actually work together and coordinate their efforts. It seems that a wide array of voices is speaking out to highlight the importance of passing this legislation. These voices include not only those from the world of religion, but also those from the business, political and entertainment communities. It is good to see various elements of the community united in their efforts to advance a realistic measure to deal with an ongoing dilemma that has vexed this country for far too long.

This current effort is reminiscent of the unity generated during the civil rights era of the '60s, which we remember at this time in the context of the 1963 March on Washington and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. If you look at the pictures of that day, you will be struck by how integrated the gathering was. You will also see significant numbers of Catholic clergy marching arm-in-arm with participants. To now see significant numbers of evangelicals and a number of important Catholic organizations working to achieve the same important goal reminds us of the enduring power of the Christian message. It is a message that can overcome fear and hate with compassion and understanding.

We have to hope that these and additional efforts will turn the tide and produce a fair and reasonably just solution to the immigration problem that will be signed by the White House. It has been far too difficult to achieve anything in this year's Congress. Serious budget issues affecting the poor and needy throughout our land lie in wait for the Congress this fall. The passage of landmark immigration legislation could serve as a reminder that it is still possible for our government to accomplish something worthwhile.

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO MARKETPLACE: August is a busy season for interest groups

By Nancy Marshall-Genzer

August 29, 2013

<http://www.marketplace.org/topics/business/august-busy-season-interest-groups>

Heat, sweat, and, now, activists are unavoidable facts of life for members of Congress in August. An army of interest groups has been pushing various causes this month.

Opponents of President Barack Obama's health care law are demanding it be defunded. And an unusual coalition of the left and right -- including local police, business groups and church leaders -- is pushing for immigration reform. Their ad campaign cost \$400,000, and its organizer Ali Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum, says you ignore August at your peril.

"Bills will either get closer to the finish line or die on the rocks of despair during the August recess," he says, pointing to nearly 50 immigration roundtables his coalition held this month. "We think we have won the August recess."

That kind of win-lose talk reminds some Congress watchers of a politician's campaign.

"That's the kind of thing you used to hear only from candidates," says Allan Lichtman, an American University history professor. "So you now have a lobbyist keeping score to see who wins in terms of wielding influence as opposed to getting elected."

Lichtman says a lot of the interest groups active this August hired Washington political operatives to advise them. They set up war rooms and rapid response teams. August is one big business opportunity for the old Washington hands, who want to impress and attract future clients, according to GOP strategist John Feehery.

"What they're doing here is, like anything else, they're trying to build a resume," he says. "They're trying to build their case that -- why other people should hire them."

So they can win August.

NBC LATINO: "I could be the voice of those who are voiceless" – religious leaders advocate immigration reform

By Kristina Puga

Aug. 20, 2013

<http://nbclatino.com/2013/08/20/religious-leaders-unite-for-immigration-reform/>

Several religious organizations are stepping up their support for immigration reform as legislators debate the issue around the country.

Today, the national [Evangelical Immigration Table](#) launched the latest in its "Pray for Reform" campaign — a Christian and talk radio ad campaign which will air locally in 14 states, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

"I decided to support this radio ad, because I could be the voice of those who are voiceless in my congregation," says Felix Cabrera, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. "There are many who are separated from their families — leaving children without their parents...Many come here to work, do good, and make the U.S. a better place to live."

Cabrera is one of several prominent pastors who will be featured in the ad buy, which will exceed \$400,000 and is meant to urge members of Congress in 56 congressional districts to support immigration reform. The group advocates legislation that secures borders, keeps families together and includes an earned pathway to citizenship.

In addition to participating in the radio ad, the "Pray for Reform" campaign allows more than 60,000 people to unite in prayer, across the country, for the same cause.

"Definitely, immigration reform is necessary for the first generation immigrant and their kids who were born here — this is home," says Pastor Cabrera. He explains that approximately 50 percent of his congregation is undocumented. "As a pastor, I live every day, 24/7, with this reality, and I hope immigration reform is approved, because my people need it."

[Catholic Relief Services \(CRS\)](#), the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, is also asking Congress to take a serious look at the factors driving migration to the U.S. as it considers immigration reform legislation.

“We believe that the current debate on immigration reform must include a recognition that migration does not occur in a vacuum or only as a domestic issue,” said Bill O’Keefe, Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy for CRS, in a statement. “We need to more effectively respond to the factors that are at the root of migration, including poverty, lack of public safety and persecution. It’s not about stopping migration, but about creating opportunities so that people have options — including ‘the right not to migrate.’”

NBC NEWS: Evangelical coalition keeps up immigration push with big radio buy

By Carrie Dann

August 20, 2013

<http://nbcpolitics.nbcnews.com/news/2013/08/20/20107068-evangelical-coalition-keeps-up-immigration-push-with-big-radio-buy?lite>

Aiming to boost momentum for comprehensive immigration reform as Congress continues its five-week summer recess, evangelical leaders who support the reform effort are again taking to the airwaves – to the tune of \$400,000.

The Evangelical Immigration Table, a coalition of faith groups, announced Tuesday that it will air pro-immigration reform ads on Christian and talk radio in 56 congressional districts and 14 states nationwide.

The new two-week ad buy, which includes the voices of local and national faith leaders and comes with \$400,000 of funding behind it, is the largest yet made in the coalition’s cumulative million-dollar effort to support legislation that would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

“During the August recess, members of Congress - including key Republicans - continue to hear from the evangelicals in their districts that broad immigration reform is necessary and urgent,” said Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. “They’ll return to Washington knowing that they have support at home for taking action on reform.”

Evangelicals involved in the effort cite Jesus’ teachings as the cornerstone of their support for immigration reform. But there’s also a practical reason for support; many congregations are increasingly populated by immigrants – legal and undocumented alike -- who are directly affected by the byzantine rules of the current system and the draconian consequences for those who lack or lose their legal status.

“This is not really hypothetical or even political,” said Mike McClenahan, a pastor in Solana Beach, Calif. “This is personal because there are so many children in our community who are living in fear that their parents are going to be deported.”

Organizers said the ads will run primarily in Republican districts in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

Duke noted that the 56 members being targeted are key members of the House committees that will be taking up individual pieces of immigration legislation when Congress returns in September.

A Meet the Press roundtable and Rep. Steve King discuss the immigration overhaul currently making its way through Congress.

The Senate passed a sweeping reform bill in June, but House leaders have declined to take up the comprehensive measure, instead favoring a “step-by-step” approach that focuses on border security, enforcement and employer verification.

Republican Rep. Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, the chairman of the influential House Judiciary Committee, reiterated Monday that House leaders won’t take up the Senate bill and that his panel will not support a “special pathway to citizenship” for those in the country illegally. He has suggested that undocumented immigrants could obtain legal status and then apply for citizenship through existing channels like relationships with family or employers.

Duke suggested Tuesday that the details of how undocumented immigrants reach citizenship are less important to the evangelical coalition than the opportunity for those in the country illegally to “earn” citizenship just as others can.

“We’re not asking for a special path towards citizenship,” he said. “We’re not asking for automatic citizenship. What we’re asking, simply, is that those who qualify in the same way that anybody else

would qualify could get in that line, and when they get in that line they get in line behind the folks who have already applied."

Ran in:

89.3 KPCC Southern California Public Radio

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/multiamerican/2013/08/20/14546/in-immigration-news-bill-targets-reform-related-sc/>

NEWSMAX: Evangelicals Announce Ad Buy Urging GOP to Back Immigration Overhaul

By Cathy Burke

August 20, 2013

<http://www.newsmax.com/Politics/evangelicals-ad-buy-immigration/2013/08/20/id/521403>

Evangelical groups supporting immigration reform are funding a \$400,000 advertising blitz on Christian radio stations in 14 states and 56 congressional districts.

The two-week ad buy by the Evangelical Immigration Table is the largest yet in the coalition's nearly million-dollar effort to back legislation that would grant citizenship to millions of undocumented immigrants, [Roll Call reported Tuesday](#).

The ads will run in markets mostly represented by Republicans, said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research at the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

"They'll return to Washington knowing they have support at home for taking action on reform," Duke said.

Organizers said the ads will run primarily in Republican districts in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin.

"This is not really hypothetical or even political," Mike McClenahan, a pastor in Solana Beach, Calif., told [NBC News](#).

"This is personal because there are so many children in our community who are living in fear that their parents are going to be deported."

Evangelical groups have joined labor unions and immigrant groups in pushing for reform.

"Immigrants are part of the membership of all of our groups, and for that reason we care about immigration," said Glen Carey, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Evangelicals.

The issue is also humanitarian, said Felix Cabrera, pastor at the Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, where undocumented immigrants make up about half of his church's congregation.

"As a Hispanic pastor in the United States, I have to deal with the collateral damage that our broken immigration system brings to my people," he said. "The Bible doesn't call me to judge the reasons why immigrants arrive to this country. The Bible calls me to love them and welcome them."

The last time Congress went home for August in the midst of an immigration debate was in 2006, but opponents succeeded in killing momentum for the legislation, Roll Call reported. Carey said this time around, "the pro-immigrant voice has been rather prominent in many of the town halls that we have observed."

The Senate passed a sweeping reform bill in June, but House leaders have declined to take up the comprehensive measure, instead favoring a step-by-step approach that focuses on border security, enforcement, and employer verification.

Republican Rep. Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, the chairman of the influential House Judiciary Committee, reiterated Monday that House leaders won't take up the Senate bill and that his panel will not support a "special pathway to citizenship" for those in the country illegally.

"We're not asking for a special path towards citizenship," Duke said. "We're not asking for automatic citizenship. What we're asking, simply, is that those who qualify in the same way that anybody else would qualify could get in that line, and when they get in that line they get in line behind the folks who have already applied."

NORTHERN VOICES ONLINE NEWS: Immigration reforms 2013 update: Evangelists back immigration bill

Aug. 22, 2013

<http://nvonews.com/2013/08/22/immigration-reforms-2013-update-evangelists-back-immigration-bill/>

Immigration reforms 2013 updates suggest that there is more support to immigration bill. Evangelical groups too are backing the bill

Coming in support of the comprehensive immigration bill, which if cleared will provide a path to citizenship for most of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, a group of evangelical Christians would be spending a whopping \$400,000 on radio ads in which the members of Congress would be urged to support immigration changes.

It is for the first time since their inception 14 months ago that the Evangelical Immigration Table is spending such a huge amount on the advertisements that would run mainly on Christian radio stations all this month.

Speaking about the campaign, Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research for the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said: "Right now, members of Congress are home for their August recess, listening to what their constituents want them to do for the rest of this year. We want them to know that we believe broad immigration reform is necessary and urgent. They'll return to Washington knowing they have support at home for taking action."

As per the plan the ads would be aired in 56 congressional districts across the 14 states including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin, among which most of them being headed by Republicans.

On the choice of districts, Galen Carey, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Evangelicals, said: "The districts were chosen because they are represented by key lawmakers and because they have a strong presence by evangelicals."

The group has also roped in the local pastors to speak in the advertisements, which according to the members would be a good manner to connect with the people. Felix Cabrera, a pastor at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, who agreed to be part of one such jingle said: "I decided to record this radio ad because I feel that I could be the voice of those who are voiceless in my congregation. As a Hispanic pastor, I have to deal with the collateral damage in our community when families are separated because of our immigration system."

THE OKLAHOMAN: A 'voice for the voiceless': Oklahoma City pastor pushes for immigration reform in radio ad campaign

By Carla Hinton

August 24, 2013

<http://newsok.com/a-voice-for-the-voiceless-oklahoma-city-pastor-pushes-for-immigration-reform-in-radio-ad-campaign/article/3875408>

The Rev. Felix Cabrera looks out into the pews of his Oklahoma City ministry, and the faces of those affected by America's immigration laws stare back at him.

Because of his multicultural congregation — he estimates half are undocumented — the local pastor is taking to the national airwaves as part of a high-dollar radio advertising campaign urging Congress to make broad changes to U.S. immigration laws.

Cabrera, pastor of Iglesia Bautista de Quail Springs, the Hispanic ministry at Quail Springs Baptist Church, recently recorded an ad for the Evangelical Immigration Table's latest radio ad campaign launched this week. The ads are set to run on Christian and talk radio in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa markets.

Cabrera, 34, said about 50 percent of his congregation at the Oklahoma City church, 14613 N May, are U.S. citizens or legally in America, while the remainder are undocumented. The Puerto Rico native said his congregation's makeup puts him at the forefront of the immigration reform issue.

"I could be a voice for the voiceless in my church," Cabrera said of his motivation to participate in the ad campaign.

"I'm not doing this because I'm Hispanic. I'm doing this because I'm a Christian."

About the campaign

Barrett Duke, a leader with the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the \$400,000 ad campaign is timed to coincide with the current congressional recess.

In a news teleconference Tuesday, Duke, the commission's vice president for public policy and research, said the ads will run in 56 congressional districts in 14 states, including Oklahoma. Other states are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin.

Evangelical Immigration Table is made up of evangelical leaders and organizations working together to urge Congress to make comprehensive modifications to U.S. immigration laws. Group leaders said the new ads bring the total amount spent on the "Pray 4 Reform" radio ads in every region of the country to about \$1 million.

The group's immigration reform push also has included meetings with congressional leaders. Leaders said more than 60,000 people across the country have signed up as prayer partners in the effort to encourage Congress to pass immigration reform legislation.

Cabrera said his connection with the Evangelical Immigration Table came through his ties with the National Latino Evangelical Coalition, part of the evangelical immigration reform movement. Cabrera said he is a member of the Latino evangelical coalition's board, plus he has ties to the Southern Baptist Convention through his leadership at Quail Springs Baptist, a Southern Baptist church.

He said his Hispanic congregation meets at 11 a.m. Sundays in the fellowship hall at Quail Springs Baptist, and members represent South America, Central America, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

'Biblical issue'?

Cabrera said the immigration reform campaign seeks to create conscience and to remind the nation's leaders that the Bible has numerous Scriptures about the importance of coming to the aid of the "stranger."

Cabrera said most Hispanic immigrants come to America to work and make a better life for themselves and their families. He said the Bible calls him to love, receive and care for immigrants, not judge them because they entered the country illegally.

The Evangelical Immigration Table's campaign calls for legislation that would include a path to citizenship and border security. Tuesday, Duke, with the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the group is not calling for a "special path" or an "automatic path" to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, but its leaders do think Congress needs to come up with a way these immigrants may rectify their status.

Cabrera said the radio ad campaign is a way to show "that immigration is not only a political and economical issue. It's a biblical issue."

Cabrera said Christians have no problem confronting the government on issues like same-sex marriage, legalization of drugs and abortion, but aren't as united regarding immigration.

"Why are we together on the other issues but we are divided on immigration?" he said. "I don't see the same passion when we talk about immigration."

Others involved

Meanwhile, aside from Cabrera, other pastors who recorded ads for the campaign include Bob Lowman, missionary and director of Metrolina Baptist Association in Charlotte, N.C.; the Rev. Mike McClenahan, pastor of Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in Solana Beach, Calif.; and the Rev. Stan Coffey, senior pastor of The Church at Quail Creek in Amarillo, Texas.

Other organizations included in the evangelical Immigration Table include the National Association of Evangelicals, Bread for the World, Sojourners, Esperanza, Christian Community Development Association, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, National Latino Evangelical Coalition, World Relief and World Vision.

Galen Carey, vice president of government relations with the National Association of Evangelicals, said the coalition has high hopes for the new radio campaign.

"We pray that these radio messages amplify the evangelical witness to God's love and care for the immigrants whom He has brought to our shores," Carey said Tuesday.

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER: Summer of immigration ends, issue back to Congress
By Roxana Kopetman

August 31, 2013

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/immigration-523699-campbell-reform.html>

Like a big project that doesn't just go away during vacation, the issue of immigration awaits Congress when it returns from its summer recess. Its future is unclear.

This summer, immigration reform appears to have garnered additional support from the Republican side of the U.S. House of Representatives, perhaps enough to pass legislation if immigration measures ever get to a full vote.

Activists calling for reform spent the month of August pushing for that move. More phone calls, more rallies, more prayer events. And they mostly came from one side, as little was heard from opponents. Some pro-reform activists hailed it as a success.

"We have seen a lot of momentum throughout the August recess in Orange County and across the country," said Wendy Tarr, director of the Orange County chapter of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, a faith-based organization.

"Part of me is encouraged that when they go back to work, legislators will caucus and will have very positive stories about business leaders speaking to them, agricultural leaders, faith leaders, and other people who have worked to communicate with them," Tarr said.

Rep. John Campbell, R-Irvine, said it's been a hot topic this summer in Orange County.

"We got more calls on immigration than any other issue," he said.

The congressman received approximately 350 calls and 17 letters in support of immigration reform and about 80 calls and 23 letters "expressing concerns about the Senate-passed bill and/or blanket amnesty," said Christopher Bognanno, Campbell's spokesman.

In Orange County, Campbell was one of two congressmen targeted by pro-immigration reform forces.

Rep. Ed Royce, R-Fullerton, was the second. Royce's spokeswoman did not provide any numbers, saying their office does not keep such statistics.

One of the groups coordinating volunteers on calls to Campbell and Royce was the Orange County Labor Federation. Volunteers made close to 60,000 calls and patched through more than 500 callers to each congressman, said Julio Perez, director of the local AFL-CIO organization.

"Has this been enough to sway Ed Royce and John Campbell to come out in public support of immigration reform? No, it hasn't," Perez said. "But what's different about this campaign is that we're having longer conversations with people. In the past, they would last 30 seconds to a minute. These conversations last longer. They are real conversations – not just yes and no answers."

In an interview Friday, Campbell said he is "sympathetic and interested in a pathway to residency." But he does not support the Senate-passed bill that would allow some 11 million people who are living here illegally the right to become citizens.

Royce said in an email that he wants to work on "securing the border first, faster documentation for immigrants and a workable employer verification system."

Five immigration-related bills have cleared House committees and await consideration by the full chamber. None address the controversial proposal adopted by the Senate that would create a 13-year path to citizenship for people who either came here illegally or arrived with temporary visas and overstayed them.

According to America's Voice, a Washington, D.C.-based pro-immigrant organization, 24 House Republicans have publicly endorsed citizenship as part of an immigration overhaul.

When and how the issue will surface for a vote is up to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who has pledged that he will not break the "Hastert rule," a practice that calls for a bill to be brought to the House floor for a vote only when "a majority of the majority" supports a measure. There is precedent for breaking the rule. And House conservatives have warned Boehner not to do it with immigration.

"His membership is so angry that he has broken it in the past that they have increased the pressure to not break it again over immigration," said Doris Meissner, a senior fellow and director for the U.S. Immigration Policy Program at the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

There are other challenges. Congress has fewer than 50 legislative days before the end of the year and legislators must tackle other serious subjects.

"I do expect Syria to be the first priority because it's the most urgent," Campbell said. Other imminent subjects include government funding and whether to raise the debt limit. "Those are big issues and they

are contentious,” Campbell said. “I would be surprised if we get to (immigration) before November or December.”

And while immigration is a hot-button issue in California, in other parts of the country, health care, jobs and the economy are taking center stage before immigration, Campbell said.

At town hall meetings across the U.S. last month, there was little of the anger voiced over other immigration reform campaigns in previous years. On Friday, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., was heckled while giving a speech at a conservative conference. But that has been the exception rather than the rule. “A wholesale anti-immigrant outpouring around the country in the way we experienced in 2006 and 2007 ...did not happen.” said Meissner, former Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, or INS, an agency that was broken up in 2003 into different organizations, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE.

“There just hasn’t been the vocal and angry and politically intimidating movement or organized effort to protest against immigration reform. And that’s significant,” Meissner said.

Some local leaders against changing immigration laws disagree.

“There has been a lot of activity by us. We have demonstrated ... and gone to Town Halls all over the country and met with legislators or their staffs,” said Evelyn Miller, on the board of directors of the California Coalition for Immigration Reform, an O.C.-based group that is “fighting the illegal alien invasion for the preservation of our nation.”

Robin Hvidston, executive director of the Claremont-based We the People, California’s Crusaders, said her organization also has been active attending meetings and making calls, but her group does not have the money to bus in activists from other areas. “That’s what pro-amnesty people are doing,” she said. While both sides of the debates expressed optimism that legislators will vote their way, Meissner, of the Migration Policy Institute, said the issue was in a “fluid” state.

“The leadership in the Republican House and in general knows they have to deal with this issue,” she said. “It’s a question of whether they will sooner or later.”

PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE (New York): NY Evangelicals Turn Volume Up for Immigration Reform

By Mike Clifford

Sept. 3, 2013

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2013-09-03/immigrant-issues/ny-evangelicals-turn-volume-up-for-immigration-reform/a34282-1>

NEW YORK - With less than a week left in the Congressional recess, New York's evangelical leaders are turning up the volume today in their support for immigration reform. National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC) president, the Rev. Gabriel Salguero, said this is part of a nationwide effort, both in person and on the radio.

Salguero said he and fellow pastors have been to plenty of town hall meetings in New York and New Jersey, fighting what many believe is an uphill battle to get comprehensive immigration reform through a reluctant House of Representatives.

"It's good for the economy, it's good for families, and it's the moral thing to do," Salguero said. "So, if it's a close call, we hope that the elected officials listen to the voices of the tens of millions of evangelicals - and what is the highest good."

The Senate passed a comprehensive reform measure back in June by a wide margin (68-32), but opponents in the House have likened it to amnesty and some want to counter with their own, stricter measure.

Reverend Salguero, who is also pastor of the Lamb's Church, New York, said a group known as the Evangelical Immigration Table (EIT) is spending \$400,000 to run radio spots in support of reform and create a comprehensive reform website.

"At 'www.Pray4Reform.org,' over 60,000 people have asked to download our prayer card and said, 'Hey, we want immigration reform,'" he said. "We're targeting key districts in the House to say, 'Evangelicals want this. Here's why.'"

People need only to remember the inscription on the Statue of Liberty to understand their case in favor of a path to citizenship, Salguero added.

"Give me your tired, your hungry, your huddled masses yearning to be free," he quoted. "I think it's appropriate that, here in New York and in New Jersey, evangelicals - like their Catholic counterparts, like their Jewish counterparts, like almost every religious group in the nation - have called for immigration reform."

That web address is the word 'pray,' the number four and the word 'reform' (www.Pray4Reform.org). More information about EIT is available at <http://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com>.

RELIGION NEWS SERVICE: Thursday's Religion News Roundup: Immigration push * Bible domain * Nixon's bigotry

By Yonat Shimron

Aug. 22, 2013

<http://www.religionnews.com/2013/08/22/thursdays-religion-news-roundup-immigration-push-bible-domain-nixons-bigotry/>

Immigration is the word of the day.

Roman Catholic bishops and priests from major dioceses across the country will preach a coordinated message on Sept. 8, [backing changes in immigration policy](#) that includes a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. The idea is to influence Republican fence sitters in the U.S. House.

Protestants are getting in the game, too. The Evangelical Immigration Table launched [a new round of ads](#) in 56 congressional districts across 14 states with a clear message that they want to see immigration reform. But you probably won't see the ads unless you tune into Christian radio stations.

Meanwhile, the ACLU of Southern California says a government program to screen immigrants for national security concerns has [blacklisted some Muslims and put their U.S. citizenship applications on hold](#) for years.

ROLL CALL: Evangelicals Announce Ad Buy Urging Republicans to Back Immigration Overhaul

By David Harrison

Aug. 20, 2013

http://www.rollcall.com/news/evangelicals_announce_ad_buy_urguing_republicans_to_back_immigration-227128-1.html?zkPrintable=true

A coalition of evangelical groups plans to spend \$400,000 advertising on Christian radio stations to call on Congress to pass a broad immigration overhaul that would grant citizenship to many of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the country.

The ads will play in 14 states and 56 congressional districts, mostly represented by Republicans, said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research at the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

The ad buy represents another August recess salvo by evangelical immigration advocates to persuade wavering House Republicans to support a comprehensive bill, as the Senate did in June ([S 744](#)). The latest round brings total ad spending by the Evangelical Immigration Table to close to \$1 million, part of a broader effort by advocates to "win the recess" and send lawmakers back to the Capitol in September ready to move on immigration legislation.

"They'll return to Washington knowing they have support at home for taking action on reform," Duke said during a conference call with reporters Tuesday.

Evangelical groups have been a potent force in this year's immigration debate, joining the efforts of labor unions and immigrant groups. Although traditionally more conservative, evangelical churches have seen an influx of undocumented parishioners in recent years, leading them to support broad immigration changes.

"Immigrants are part of the membership of all of our groups, and for that reason we care about immigration," said Glen Carey, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Evangelicals.

But evangelical leaders say the question of immigration is also a "humanitarian" one. Felix Cabrera, pastor at the Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, said undocumented immigrants make up roughly half of his church's congregation.

“As a Hispanic pastor in the United States, I have to deal with the collateral damage that our broken immigration system brings to my people,” he said, referring to deportations of those here illegally. “Many are separated from their families, leaving behind U.S.-born children without their parents,” he said. “The Bible doesn’t call me to judge the reasons why immigrants arrive to this country. The Bible calls me to love them and welcome them.”

Over the past few weeks, immigration advocates have held rallies and shown up at lawmakers’ town hall meetings across the country, trying to show a groundswell of support for their position. Civil rights groups are also planning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “March on Washington” next week with rallies that tout their backing for immigration legislation.

The last time Congress went home for August in the midst of an immigration debate, in 2006, opponents of an overhaul packed district meetings and succeeded in killing momentum for the legislation.

That scenario does not appear to be unfolding this time, with many Republicans striking a more moderate tone on immigration, even if they’re not ready to support a path to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants.

“The big story of this August recess is we haven’t seen what some have predicted, where members of Congress would be heckled into inaction,” Carey said. “It’s been a muted voice, but the pro-immigrant voice has been rather prominent in many of the town halls that we have observed.”

When House GOP leaders return, they’ll face decisions on whether and how to move ahead this fall with the five immigration bills that have cleared the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees. Those measures deal with border security ([HR 1417](#)), state and local immigration enforcement ([HR 2278](#)), employment verification ([HR 1772](#)), agricultural guest workers ([HR 1773](#)) and high-tech worker visas ([HR 2131](#)).

Majority Leader [Eric Cantor](#) and Judiciary Chairman [Robert W. Goodlatte](#), both Virginia Republicans, are working on another bill, tentatively labeled the “KIDS Act,” that would grant legal status or citizenship to young people brought to the country illegally as children.

ST PETERSBLOG (Florida): Catholic pews may be where push for immigration reform takes hold

By Peter Schorsch

August 23, 2013

<http://www.saintpetersblog.com/catholic-pews-may-be-where-push-for-immigration-reform-takes-hold>

The push for immigration reform is making its way to Catholic pews, according to the *New York Times*. Catholic priests and bishops want use the pulpit to address changes in immigration policy next month. Many will use Masses on Sunday, Sept. 8 to call for an overhaul to the path to citizenship for immigrants here illegally.

This group political activity by the Roman Catholic Church is a part of a broader effort, write Ashley Parker and Michael D. Shear in the *New York Times*, to support President Obama’s call for immigration reform. This campaign includes ads, “prayerful marches” and phone calls directed to almost 60 Catholic GOP lawmakers.

The Catholic Church is not the only religious group playing a role in rallying support for immigration reform. The ecumenical Evangelical Immigration Table created a \$400,000 radio ad campaign to run on Christian and talk radio stations in 56 Congressional districts in 14 states.

However, few religious groups have the resources and following of the Catholic Church, who have committed to putting all of their weight into this issue.

Pilgrimages are another way Catholics are bringing the immigration message to lawmakers. One California event has marchers leaving Sacramento and the border town to San Ysidro, to meet at a Sept. 2 rally in Sacramento to descend on the district of Number 3 House Republican Rep. Kevin McCarthy.

“It would be good to have the conversation and help them understand that this is important for a lot of different reasons,” according to Catholic Republican Rep. David Valadao from central California.

“Having your priests talk about it in front of your constituents is always beneficial.”

TAMPA BAY TIMES: Evangelicals push radio ads to spur Florida reps on immigration

By Alex Leary

August 21, 2013

<http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/evangelicals-push-radio-ads-to-spur-florida-reps-on-immigration/2137424>

Nine Florida Republicans are being targeted in a national radio ad campaign by the Evangelical Immigration Table, which is hoping to spur action on a reform bill as Congress returns early next month from recess.

The ads are part of a 14-state, \$400,000 campaign announced today.

In Florida, pastors voicing local ads include David Uth, Senior Pastor at First Baptist Orlando; and Mark Vega, Pastor of Ignite Life Center in Gainesville.

The Florida Reps are: Steve Southerland, Ron DeSantis, John Mica, Daniel Webster, Gus Bilirakis, C.W. Bill Young, Vern Buchanan, Tom Rooney, Trey Radel.

"Members of Congress in these states will return to Washington knowing that they have support at home for immigration solutions that ensure secure borders, keep families together and include an earned pathway to citizenship," organizers said.

USA TODAY: Evangelical group to back immigration reform (15 hits)

By Erin Kelly

August 21, 2013

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/08/21/evangelicals-immigration-support/2681041/>

WASHINGTON -- A coalition of evangelical Christians will spend more than \$400,000 on radio ads urging members of Congress to support immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship for most of the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

The ads, which will run mainly on Christian radio stations this month, are aimed at spurring evangelicals to lobby their lawmakers to support reform. The ad buy is the largest to date by the Evangelical Immigration Table, which has spent nearly \$1 million since its founding 14 months ago.

"Right now, members of Congress are home for their August recess, listening to what their constituents want them to do for the rest of this year," said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research for the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. "We want them to know that we believe broad immigration reform is necessary and urgent. They'll return to Washington knowing they have support at home for taking action."

The House is expected to resume consideration of immigration legislation in October. So far, the House has rejected the idea of passing the sweeping immigration reform bill approved by the Senate in June. House leaders are still struggling with how to address immigrants living in the country illegally.

The ads will air in 56 congressional districts in 14 states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin. Most of the districts are represented by Republicans.

The districts were chosen because they are represented by key lawmakers and because they have a strong presence by evangelicals, said Galen Carey, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Evangelicals.

In many of the targeted congressional districts, local pastors will speak in the radio ads.

"I decided to record this radio ad because I feel that I could be the voice of those who are voiceless in my congregation," said Felix Cabrera, a pastor at Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. "As a Hispanic pastor, I have to deal with the collateral damage in our community when families are separated because of our immigration system."

The pastors said biblical teachings compel them to act.

"Christ calls us as evangelical Christians to compassion and justice," said Bob Lowman, director of the Metrolina Baptist Association in Charlotte, N.C.

But a spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which opposes citizenship for undocumented immigrants, said the evangelicals are "well meaning but misguided."

"They assume that America has a moral obligation to help illegal aliens who have come to this country," said federation spokesman Bob Dane. "But if we accept that we have the moral obligation to give amnesty to the 12 million who are here right now, aren't we going to have the same obligation to the next 12 million and the next after that? That's not justice and morality, that's chaos."

The immigration reform bill passed by the Senate in June would hurt American workers by bringing in more foreign workers to compete for jobs, Dane said.

"I think before the evangelicals make yet another ad buy, maybe they should spend a few days down at the unemployment office talking to struggling Americans looking for work," he said.

The ads are being paid for by the National Immigration Forum, a non-profit immigrant rights group that supports a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Ali Noorani, the forum's executive director, said financial resources for the Evangelical Immigration Table's efforts are coming from a range of supporters, including new conservative donors such as Paul Singer -- a hedge fund manager and major donor to Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign.

"But really, this effort transcends politics," Noorani said. "The story is not just that conservative businesses, families and individuals are supporting a broad movement for reform. It's really the 60,000-plus evangelicals in America who have signed up as Pray for Reform prayer partners, and the local congregations whose hearts and minds have changed."

Duke, the Southern Baptist leader, said evangelicals already have strong ties with many conservative members of Congress and may be a better position than traditional immigrant rights groups to sway them.

"There are 35 Southern Baptists in Congress," said Duke. "We already have the relationship with evangelical lawmakers. But my experience, generally speaking, is that members of Congress, whether Democrats or Republicans, have been very open to us."

Ran in:

Alexandria Town Talk (LA)

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20130821/NEWS01/130821005/Christian-ad-campaign-pushes-path-citizenship-La-13-other-states>

Asheville Citizen-Times

<http://www.citizen-times.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/politics/articles/20130820evangelical-ads-back-path-citizenship.html>

Bucyrus Telegraph Forum (OH)

<http://www.bucyrustelegraphforum.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Des Moines Register

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Durango Herald (CO)

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20130823/LIFESTYLE06/130829748/Evangelical-group-to-back-immigration-bill->

Great Falls Tribune (MT)

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Marshfield News-Herald (WI)

<http://www.marshfieldnewsheald.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

News Leader (VA)

<http://www.newsleader.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

News-Press (FL)

<http://www.news-press.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Palladium-Item (IN)

<http://www.pal-item.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Reno Gazette-Journal

<http://www.rgj.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

The Star Press (IN)

<http://www.thestarpress.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Stevens Point Journal (WI)

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

Wisconsin Rapids-Tribune

<http://www.wisconsinrapidstribune.com/usatoday/article/2681041>

USA TODAY: Immigration bill generating little heat in town halls (5 hits)

By Susan Davis and Alan Gomez

Aug. 25, 2013

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2013/08/25/immigration-townhall-august-recess/2689417/>

ALLOWAY, N.J. — Republican Rep. Frank LoBiondo represents a South Jersey congressional district with a sizable Hispanic population, farmlands that employ migrant workers, an influential labor union presence and a constituency that voted twice for President Obama.

He's precisely the kind of GOP lawmaker immigration advocates said they would target over the August recess, when members of Congress return home for the longest stretch of the year.

But at a local Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting and a Rotary Club luncheon on Thursday, immigration was never mentioned.

The 10-term incumbent met with constituents in open forums where he fielded questions on the economy, the implementation of Obama's health care law, unrest in the Middle East and even how to improve local infrastructure to ease traffic to the Jersey shore.

"It's not coming up," LoBiondo said in interview. "It is a big issue nationally, but in this district it's just not something on people's minds."

It's not because advocates aren't trying. LoBiondo has not staked out any hard-line positions on immigration, and his is one of 17 congressional districts the House Democrats' campaign operation said they would target on immigration in August with "media tactics, messaging amplification and community outreach," according to a memo.

Last week, Organizing for Action, an outside political group promoting Obama's agenda, used its local New Jersey Twitter account in an effort to organize supporters to appear at a LoBiondo event in Cape May to show support for an immigration overhaul. Jason Galanes, LoBiondo's spokesman, notified event organizers and local police that protesters might be in attendance. It was not necessary. "No one showed up," Galanes said.

LoBiondo's lack of political pressure to support or oppose immigration overhaul has been reflected across Republican congressional districts during the August recess.

Supporters of overhauling the nation's immigration laws see the muted month as perhaps a partial victory, proof that Republicans who have indicated they could support a path to legalizing

undocumented immigrants will not face the harsh backlash that has been anticipated from conservatives back home.

"The big story of the August recess is that we haven't seen what some had predicted — this major anti-immigrant movement where members of Congress would be heckled into inaction," said Galen Carey, vice president of government relations for the National Association of Evangelicals, which launched a \$400,000 radio advertisement campaign to encourage Republicans to support immigration changes. Those who oppose granting citizenship to undocumented immigrants saw something else in August — a conservative movement focused more on dismantling the president's health care law than worrying about an immigration overhaul package that faces an uncertain future in the GOP-led U.S. House.

"There's only so much outrage a group of people can sustain, and the opponents of Obamacare and the opponents of amnesty overlap," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Services, which opposes granting citizenship to undocumented immigrants. "I don't think anybody won August because it was kind of a wash."

That rings true for Andy Merendino, a small-business owner from Carneys Point, N.J., who attended Thursday's breakfast and questioned LoBiondo on the debt and the economy. In an interview, Merendino said he cares about immigration and opposes a path to citizenship, but he is more concerned about the implementation of the health care law. "That's going to affect way more people. It affects every citizen, and it's not going to end well," he said.

David Wasserman, a non-partisan election analyst for *The Cook Political Report*, said it has been difficult for Democrats and immigration advocacy groups to apply pressure to a critical mass of Republicans to support a comprehensive overhaul because so few represent competitive districts with Hispanic populations.

There are only eight GOP-held congressional districts that have a Hispanic population above 10% that are currently rated competitively by *Cook*.

"I don't think the noise level is that high in these districts," Wasserman said, particularly compared with the town hall meetings in the summer of 2009 during the health care debate. "There's a much different feel. There's just not a sense of anticipation about what the House will do. I don't think most people see an immigration bill passing the House as imminent," he said.

There have been some instances of Republicans facing heat for their stance on immigration.

Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah, [had to turn Hispanics away](#) from his Salt Lake City office this week when they came to protest his proposal to grant legal status, but never citizenship, to undocumented immigrants. About [1,000 people protested](#) outside the Bakersfield office of the House's No. 3 Republican, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., to push him to support citizenship.

On the other side, Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., was constantly interrupted during a speech in Gardendale, Ala., over his support for a plan to grant citizenship to undocumented immigrants. When he would say "undocumented" people would say "illegal." When he said "pathway to citizenship" people would say "no."

"Call me a cop-out, but my Christian beliefs and principals tell me that we don't split up families," Bachus said.

But for the most part, Republicans representing safe seats have not witnessed a notable rise in constituent interest on the issue. At a Lyman, S.C., town hall meeting earlier this month, Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., a member of the Judiciary Committee with jurisdiction over immigration, also faced no questions on it.

For the most part, Gowdy's constituents support his position that the House should tackle immigration with a piecemeal approach, in contrast to the Senate-passed comprehensive bill that provides a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants.

"When they come in illegally and break our laws to get in here and then expect us to bend over backward to give them this and give them that with 23 million Americans still looking for work, I say no. No way," said John Price, 75, a retired nuclear engineer.

The muted interactions over the hot-button issue is also partly explained by a waning interest by lawmakers to hold public town hall-style meetings because they have become easy targets for activists. Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., represents a nearly 20% Hispanic district. His greatest re-election threat is a primary if he supported a comprehensive approach.

In an interview, Gosar made it clear that's not going to happen: He says it would be wrong to reward illegal immigrants by giving them a path to citizenship, even if they were brought here as children. "It's a crappy bill," he said of the Senate bill.

Contributing: Ron Barnett in South Carolina, Marty Roney in Alabama and Dennis Wagner in Arizona.

Ran in:

ABC News

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2013/08/the-notes-must-reads-for-monday-august-26-2013/>

Courier-Post (NJ)

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20130827/NEWS02/308270013/Immigration-issue-generates-little-heat>

The Daily Journal (NJ)

<http://www.thedailyjournal.com/article/20130827/NEWS01/308270009/Immigration-not-LoBiondo-s-radar>

Livingston Daily (MI)

<http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130826/NEWS01/308260003/Immigration-legislation-generating-little-heat>

WTSP 10 News Tampa Bay (FL)

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/332112/81/Immigration-bill-generating-little-heat-in-town-halls>

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: Evangelical groups use radio ads to push for immigration reform

By Sean Lengell

August 22, 2013

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/evangelical-groups-use-radio-ads-to-push-for-immigration-reform/article/2534567>

A coalition of evangelical groups began airing radio ads in 14 states this week to press Congress to reform the nation's immigration laws, which it says have led to "a moral, economic and political crisis in America."

The ad buy, which costs more than \$400,000 and will run on Christian radio stations in 56 mostly Republican-controlled congressional districts, is the latest effort in the Evangelical Immigration Table's "Pray for Reform" campaign that is pushing for a legal path to citizenship for at least some of the millions of people who have illegally entered the U.S.

The group has spent almost a \$1 million for media buys nationwide for the campaign the past year. Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research at the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, a coalition member, says it is imperative that Congress pass immigration reform policies that "temper justice with compassion."

"We are people of the Bible, and we read in the Bible where Jesus talks about caring for the stranger," Duke said.

"We see these immigrants and people basically living in the shadows in constant danger ... and we're looking for a way to enable them to come out of the shadows to get to a legal status where they can hopefully enjoy the benefits of living in this country but also contribute to more fully the life and vitality of the nation."

Duke added that many coalition members also are motivated by the "reality that the immigration system in our country is broken and it just need to be fixed." Those fixes should included tightening security along the U.S.-Mexican border, he said.

Mike McClenahan, pastor of Solana Beach (Calif.) Presbyterian Church, whose community includes a large Hispanic population, said immigration reform "is not hypothetical but very personal."

“Lasting and comprehensive immigration reform grounded in biblical values will give children and adults the opportunity to move out of the fearful shadows, eventually earn citizenship and contribute to our society with their God-given potential,” he said.

The Democratic-controlled Senate in June easily passed a sweeping reform package that called for a path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants while enhancing border security.

But an overhaul is a much tougher sell in the Republican-run House, where GOP leaders say they may split the Senate bill into several pieces in an attempt to pass at least some of its provisions.

The evangelical coalition hasn’t endorsed any legislation. Duke says the Senate bill did a “pretty good job” of upholding the coalition’s demands but he hopes the House will “make the bill stronger.”

Spanish News Hits:

ASSOCIATED PRESS: EEUU: Grupos evangélicos lanzan campaña prorreforma (15 hits)

21 de agosto

<http://es-us.noticias.yahoo.com/eeuu-grupos-evang-licos-lanzan-campa-prorreforma-201925760.html>

WASHINGTON (AP) — Una coalición de grupos evangélicos, entre ellos la poderosa Convención Bautista del Sur, espera hacerse oír con fuerza en el debate legislativo sobre la reforma migratoria. La Mesa Evangélica de Inmigración, creada el año pasado, invirtió 400.000 dólares en una campaña publicitaria por radio en 56 distritos. En los avisos, pastores locales se pronuncian a favor de aprobar una reforma migratoria sin demora.

El doctor Barrett Duke, de la Comisión de Ética y Libertad Religiosa de la Convención Bautista del Sur, dijo la publicidad "saturará" las ondas radiales durante dos semanas.

El pastor Félix Cabrera, de la Iglesia Bautista Quail Creek de Oklahoma City, dijo que la política vigente provoca la separación de los padres de sus hijos nacidos en Estados Unidos. Y el pastor Stan Coffey, de Amarillo, Texas, dijo que los evangélicos deben hacerse oír, tal como "hubiera hecho Jesús si estuviera aquí".

Ran in:

20minutos

<http://www.20minutos.com/noticia/b4347/eeuugrupos-evangelicos-lanzan-campana-prorreforma/>

America Teve (FL)

http://www.americateve.com/eeuugrupos_evangelicos_lanzan_campana_prorreforma-680673-ap

Centro Tampa (FL)

http://centrotampa.com/ce/list/estados-unidos/eeuugrupos-evangelicos-lanzan-campaa-prorreforma-ap_spanish_-_united_states75dbeac913df4093982be0eed6582b28

Fox News Latino

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/espanol/2013/08/21/grupos-evangelicos-lanzan-campana-prorreforma-inmigratoria/>

El Mexicano (Mexico)

<http://www.el-mexicano.com.mx/informacion/noticias/1/1/internacional/2013/08/21/691330/grupos-evangelicos-lanzan-campana-prorreforma>

MSN Latino

<http://noticias.latino.msn.com/eeuu/eeuugrupos-evang%C3%A9licos-lanzan-campa%C3%B1a-prorreforma-1>

News 12 El Bronx (NY)

<http://bronx-spanish.news12.com/nacionales-e-internacionales/eeuu-grupos-evangelicos-lanzan-campa-a-prorreforma-1.5933454>

El Nuevo Herald (FL)

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/2013/08/21/1548790/eeuugrupos-evangelicos-lanzan.html>

El Tiempo (Venezuela)

<http://eltiempo.com.ve/mundo/leyes/una-coalicion-de-grupos-evangelicos-entre-ellos-la-poderosa-convencion-bautista-del-sur-espera-hacerse-oir-con-fuerza-en-el-debate-legislativo-sobre-la-reforma-inmigratoria-la-mesa-evangelica-de-inmigracion-invirtio-400000-dolares-en-una-campana-por-radio-en-56-distritos/103773>

Univision Noticias

<http://feeds.univision.com/feeds/article/2013-08-21/eeuugrupos-evangelicos-lanzan-campana-prorreforma?refPath=/noticias/estados-unidos/noticias/>

Verizon

<http://entertainment.verizon.com/news/read/category/Spanish%20News/article/ap-eeuugrupos-evang%C3%A9licos-lanzan-campa%C3%B1a-pr-ap>

Viva Colorado

http://www.vivacolorado.com/pais/ci_23911945/eeuu-grupos-evang-233-licos-lanzan-campa-241

El Vocero Hispano

<http://elvoceros.com/index.php/usa-nacional/95447-grupos-evangelicos-lanzan-campana-prorreforma>

La Voz Arizona

http://www.lavozarizona.com/spanish/us/articles/us_202239.html

Yahoo Noticias

<http://es-us.noticias.yahoo.com/eeuu-grupos-evang-licos-lanzan-campa-prorreforma-201925760.html>

CNN EN ESPAÑOL: Interview with Pastor Felix Cabrera

August 19, 2013

(No link available.)

NOTIMEX: Lanza campaña radiofónica para exhortar a republicanos sobre reforma (10 hits)

20 de Agosto

<http://es-us.noticias.yahoo.com/lanzan-campa%C3%B1a-radiof%C3%B3nica-exhortar-republicanos-reforma-190747899.html>

Washington 20 Ago (Notimex).- Una coalición de grupos evangélicos anunció hoy el lanzamiento de una campaña radiofónica en 14 estados de la Unión Americana para llamar a los legisladores republicanos a impulsar la aprobación de la reforma migratoria integral.

Los mensajes de líderes pertenecientes a la “Mesa Evangélica Migratoria” se transmitirán en 56 distritos electorales de 60 congresistas “clave” para la reforma en Alabama, Arkansas, California, Carolina del Norte y del Sur, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Missisipi, Oklahoma, Texas y Wisconsin.

“Los anuncios (...) llaman a establecer una vía para la ciudadanía que nosotros creemos es un principio importante, por eso será incluido en el mensaje”, señaló en rueda de prensa Barrett Duke, vicepresidente de Ética Bautista del Sur y la Comisión de Libertad Religiosa.

Agregó que en la campaña denominada “Reza por la reforma”, se desembolsaron 400 mil dólares que forman parte de una inversión total de casi un millón de dólares, cuyos fondos provienen en su mayoría de donantes conservadores incluyendo empresarios, familias e individuos.

Los líderes religiosos evangélicos buscan, al igual que otros activistas, mantener la presión durante el receso de agosto en el Congreso para que la Cámara de Representantes avance un proyecto legislativo de reforma migratoria integral luego que la propuesta del Senado fuera aprobada.

Varios republicanos en la cámara baja han expresado su oposición a la inclusión de una vía para que los inmigrantes indocumentados obtengan la ciudadanía.

Duke destacó que se realizó un cabildeo con varios congresistas republicanos con objeto de mostrarles el aumento en el número de conservadores que apoyan la reforma incluyendo empresarios y evangélicos, aliados tradicionalmente al Partido Republicano.

Agregó que al abordar a los legisladores se les da la oportunidad de hacer declaraciones más “matizada” y expresarse con mayor claridad sobre la reforma al sistema migratorio estadounidense.

“Hemos oído a varios congresistas hablar con más claridad (...), muy positivos en su compromiso para encontrar el camino para ofrecer no una vía especial, sino la posibilidad de dar a esos amigos la oportunidad de ser incluidos en la reforma migratoria”, remarcó.

Por su parte, Mike McClenahan, líder evangélico en Solana Beach, California, indicó que los miembros de su congregación le han solicitado se involucre en el movimiento para apoyar la reforma migratoria para aumentar la presión.

En tanto, Félix Cabrera pastor hispano de la iglesia bautista en la ciudad de Oklahoma manifestó la necesidad de la reforma por el número creciente de inmigrantes en su congregación.

Ran in:

Yahoo Noticias

<http://es-us.noticias.yahoo.com/lanzan-campa%C3%B1a-radiof%C3%B3nica-exhortar-republicanos-reforma-190747899.html>

Diario La Estrella (Dallas/Ft. Worth)

<http://www.diariolaestrella.com/2013/08/20/129571/lanzan-campana-radiofonica-para.html>

Diario Rotativo (MX)

<http://www.rotativo.com.mx/noticias/internacionales/127554-lanzan-campana-radiofonica-para-exhortar-a-republicanos-sobre-reforma/>

El Diario de Juarez (MX)

http://diario.mx/Estados Unidos/2013-08-20_d4a81b1c/lanzan-campana-radiofonica-pro-reforma-migratoria

El Golfo (Mexico)

<http://www.elgolfo.info/elgolfo/nota/195427-republicanos-impulsan-campana-radiofonica-a-favor-de-reforma-migratoria/>

El Imparcial

<http://www.elimparcial.com/EdicionEnLinea/Notas/Internacional/20082013/743427-Lanzan-campana-radiofonica-sobre-reforma-migratoria.html>

El Porvenir (MX)

http://www.elporvenir.com.mx/notas.asp?nota_id=693713

La Crónica

<http://www.lacronica.com/EdicionEnLinea/Notas/Internacional/20082013/743427-Lanzan-campana-radiofonica-sobre-reforma-migratoria.html>

StarMedia

<http://noticias.starmedia.com/hispanos/campana-radiofonica-para-exigir-reforma-migratoria-republicanos.html>

Vértigo Político

<http://www.vertigopolitico.com/articulo/21100/Lanzan-campaa-radiofnica-para-exhortar-a-republicanos-sobre>