

National Border Patrol Council Local 1613



PRESS RELEASE

National Border Patrol Council - Local 1613 Responds to President Bush's Comments about Immigration

San Diego, CA – President Bush formally notified the World of his intent to continue providing safe haven to terrorists and criminals by asking Congress to “resolve the status” of the illegal aliens who violated immigration laws instead of directing the Department of Homeland Security to enforce immigration laws in the interior. The National Border Patrol Council – Local 1613 strongly disagrees with this message and urges Congress to properly address the “problem” and deny terrorists the opportunity to exploit the lack of immigration enforcement in the interior of the country.

On January 23, 2007, during the State of the Union, President Bush said the following about immigration:

Extending hope and opportunity in our country requires an immigration system worthy of America -- with laws that are fair and borders that are secure. When laws and borders are routinely violated, this harms the interests of our country. To secure our border, we're doubling the size of the Border Patrol, and funding new infrastructure and technology.

Yet even with all these steps, we cannot fully secure the border unless we take pressure off the border -- and that requires a temporary worker program. We should establish a legal and orderly path for foreign workers to enter our country to work on a temporary basis. As a result, they won't have to try to sneak in, and that will leave Border Agents free to chase down drug smugglers and criminals and terrorists. We'll enforce our immigration laws at the work site and give employers the tools to verify the legal status of their workers, so there's no excuse left for violating the law.

We need to uphold the great tradition of the melting pot that welcomes and assimilates new arrivals. We need to resolve the status of the illegal immigrants who are already in our country without animosity and without amnesty. Convictions run deep in this Capitol when it comes to immigration. Let us have a serious, civil, and conclusive debate, so that you can pass, and I can sign, comprehensive immigration reform into law.

As of this writing, 100% of Border Patrol Agents polled felt that President Bush's comments about a temporary worker program “encouraged” illegal immigration. The only way a temporary worker program will take pressure off the border is if the number of temporary worker permits is equal to or greater than the number of people who wish to come to the United States to work. Based on current numbers¹, there will always be far too many people who will have “to try to sneak in” to the country because there will never be enough temporary worker permits.

If President Bush actually intends to “leave Border Patrol Agents free to chase down drug smugglers, criminals, and terrorists”, then the obvious solution is to target the problem instead of treating a symptom. The “problem” is U.S. employers who hire illegal aliens and the “symptom”

¹ The number of: illegal aliens currently residing in the United States, apprehensions of people attempting to enter the United States, people who enter the United States illegally, and visitors who enter legally with no intention of ever leaving.

