

Immigration Reform: House Standards vs. Senate Bill

	Draft House Standards	Senate Bill
Security	Draft House standards mandate a secure border.	Does not guarantee the border will be secure before giving all illegal immigrants citizenship.
	Will eliminate the ability for any administration to arbitrarily decide which laws to enforce.	Would allow this and future administrations to circumvent the Congress and decide unilaterally how to enforce immigration laws.
	A zero tolerance policy for future illegal crossers.	Keeps the border and enforcement policies open for future illegal immigrants.
	Implementation of a biometric entry-exit system.	Does not address the problem of tracking immigrants that exit through land ports and does not comply with mandates for a fully biometric system.
Visa Reform	A realistic, usable temporary worker plan that helps secure our borders and grow our economy.	A low-skilled, temporary worker program that was written by labor unions and special interests. Its bureaucratic guidelines and arbitrary limitations would only increase the problem of illegal immigration.
Unauthorized Immigrants	Draft House standards prohibit a special path to citizenship for people currently in the country illegally.	Allows everyone here to become a citizen by the end of a 13-16 year waiting period. No limits put on the number of green cards. Waiting period for citizenship shortened to 3 years.
	Illegal immigrants must admit their culpability for breaking our laws.	Never requires individuals to admit that they broke any laws by residing in or coming into the country illegally, giving them a free pass for their crimes.
	Requires that immigrants seeking legalization be able to support themselves and their families without access to public benefits.	Prohibits access to public benefits only during their probationary status and does not require any proof from the applying immigrant that they can support themselves and their dependents. Specifically waives the "public charge" requirement that is currently law.
	Forbids gang members from participating in any legalization program.	Only excludes a very small portion of the gang member population and allows for a broad waiver to apply to those with past convictions for gang-related crimes.
	No legalization can occur before specific enforcement triggers have been implemented.	Starts registering illegal immigrants for their legalization program virtually immediately after passage, without having to meet any real enforcement requirements.
Process	Lawmakers and the public will be able to fully scrutinize any legislation before it comes to a vote.	Didn't allow constituents or lawmakers to properly review what they were considering.