



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1408

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SEAPOWERS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS,
AND CAPABILITIES
AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION, CREDIT, ENERGY,
AND RESEARCH
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND
RISK MANAGEMENT
SMALL BUSINESS
FINANCE AND TAX
RURAL AND URBAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

June 25, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H232 – U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

In every county of my district, I hear from constituents who are concerned about the millions of illegal immigrants already in this country and the lack of security at our borders. I have shared their concerns for some time and have publicly spoken out against the Senate proposal because of the inclusion of amnesty. And as the Senate resumes consideration of immigration reform this week, I want to take this opportunity to express my thoughts to you and other members of the House leadership directly before we consider any legislation.

Real immigration reform can be accomplished in a number of ways, but amnesty is not one of them. For instance, I support immigration reform that focuses on enforcing the rule of law through the implementation of a robust employee verification system. In April, I introduced the Legal Employee Verification Act, H.R. 1951, which creates a new mandatory system where employers can accurately check the legal status of a new employee through a national database, and it strengthens penalties for those who try to cheat the system. With a mandatory verification system, workers can rest assured that they have a fair shot at every job available in the United States. Businesses and employers will also have peace of mind that when they play by the rules, their competitors cannot beat the system by hiring illegal workers.

As you know, I spent almost 25 years in law enforcement, and current proposals to grant automatic legal status or protection to individuals who are in the U.S. illegally do not sit well with me or most of my constituents. In my view, this would not only undermine our rule of law, but also disrespect those immigrants following our laws and waiting patiently to come here legally.

When the House of Representatives considers immigration reform legislation, we should not endorse provisions granting automatic legal status or protection to individuals here

illegally. Such policies would send the message that Congress condones those who disregard our laws. As Representative of the Eighth District of Indiana and a former law enforcement officer, that is not something I can support. That approach amounts to amnesty and is the wrong direction for America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad", written in a cursive style.

Brad Ellsworth

cc: Hon. Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
Hon. James Clyburn, Majority Whip