



## The Senate's Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill: Highlights and Lowlights

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### Highlights

The bill recognizes the value of the work of our undocumented population and provides many more legal opportunities for family unification and for immigrants coming here to work.

- **Legalization program:** An estimated 8 to 8.5 million undocumented immigrants will be able to come out of the shadows and be put on a path to permanent residence.
- **AgJOBS included:** A million undocumented agricultural workers would be put on a path to permanent residence through provisions targeted to these workers.
- **DREAM included:** Undocumented immigrant students will be put on a path to citizenship and so will be able to continue on to college along with their classmates.
- **Significant increase in family visas:** The family-based immigration system will be updated to speed family unification. It is expected to clear the backlog for family unification in approximately six years.
- **Significant increase in employment visas:** Employment-based visas are more than doubled to more realistically allow immigrants to come legally in the future to work.
- **A new temporary worker program:** The bill provides temporary visas to allow 200,000 persons to come legally each year and take jobs that are not being filled by American workers. This program includes worker protections, gives workers the ability to change employers, and provides a path to permanent residence for those who want to stay.

*(The various legalization provisions and provisions for future flow may apply to the same individuals, so the above numbers cannot be added together, because the total would include some double-counting.)*

### Lowlights

The bill contains many enforcement provisions that are symbolic, mean-spirited, unworkable, and will do little to make our country secure or our immigration system orderly.

- **Some undocumented ineligible for legalization or unlikely to come forward:** An estimated 2.5 million to 3 million undocumented immigrants will not be eligible to legalize or may be afraid to come forward because they arrived after the bill's cutoff date, or because certain provision in the law will make it risky for some undocumented immigrants to reveal themselves.
- **Language hurdle to legalization:** Undocumented immigrants who are legalizing will have to meet the same requirements for English and Civics knowledge as someone who is applying for citizenship.
- **Flooding of FBI lookout list with non-criminal immigrant names:** The bill would require that information on immigrants who are confirmed to be out of status be put in the National Crime Information Center database. This database is used by local police to find wanted criminals and the bill will flood the database with hundreds of thousands of names of immigrants who have not committed a criminal act.

- **Punishment out of proportion to crime:** the bill contains a number of provisions that will trip up immigrants even if they commit only minor offenses and expose them to permanent exile from their families and adopted country.
- **Wall on the border:** The bill calls for at least 370 miles of fence on the U.S.-Mexico border.
- **Reduced access to justice:** A number of provisions in the bill will reduce the ability of immigrants to have their day in court when subject to a bad government decision.