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White House Announces Plans For Immigration Reform

Obama Administration Wants to Make Good on Promise to Fix Our Nation's Most Complex Problems

By: Adrien Medvei, Esq.

The Obama administration has reiterated its intention to tackle comprehensive immigration reform this year, maybe as early May 2009. Recent statements from Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid have also signaled their support. The White House made clear on April 9 that the President intends to make good on his promise, and committed to passing comprehensive and meaningful immigration reform this year. The United States, now more than ever, needs workable solutions that fix our broken immigration system, support our economic recovery, and allow honest and hardworking people to become lawful and contributing members of our society.

The White House said a key component of comprehensive immigration reform will be the creation of a pathway to legal status for the roughly 12 million undocumented immigrants now living in the United States. Although critics of reform often deride anything short of mass deportation as a blanket 'amnesty,' a well-tailored legalization program would, in fact, bring order and legality to bear on what is now a chaotic and unregulated situation. Moreover, legalization would not add new workers to a U.S. economy already reeling from high unemployment. Rather, it would give legal status, and the full protection of labor laws, to workers who are already here. Moving forward with comprehensive immigration reform will ensure that all workers are here legally, will punish unscrupulous employers who undercut their honest competitors, and will restore integrity to the labor market. It will lift wages for workers, ensure all workers are paying taxes, restore fairness to our immigration system, and create a level playing field for law-abiding employers.

Undocumented immigrants applying for legal status would not only have to register with the federal government, but would also have to meet a number of other requirements, including paying taxes, getting criminal background checks, learning English, and paying a fine.

In addition, comprehensive reform will have to address many of the other flaws and inequities within our immigration system. It will have to reduce the enormous backlog of applications for family reunification, which impose lengthy waiting times on individuals abroad who are trying to rejoin their families in the United States. It will have to create smarter and more targeted enforcement mechanisms that find individuals who pose a danger to public safety or national security, rather than expending resources on chasing workers and breaking apart families. And it will have to consider appropriate legal limits on immigration that rise and fall with the labor needs of our economy, rather than arbitrary numerical caps that bear no relationship to labor demand.

The time is now to resolve this ongoing and complex problem. Fixing our immigration system is an important part of addressing our nation's economic, healthcare, and homeland security challenges. The White House has taken the first step today and we stand committed in supporting their efforts towards achieving sensible and comprehensive reform this year.

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evaluation of your case, please contact the Law Offices of Adrien Medvei, 3055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 900, Los Angeles, CA 90010. For customer service please call (213) 984-4013. You can also reach us toll free at (866)731-1067 or via our web site at www.medveilaw.com