



House Republicans Unveil September “Border Security Now” Agenda

September 14, 2006

House Republican leaders today announced their September “Border Security Now” agenda. The agenda includes ten border security priorities that House Republicans will pass before the end of the month. The first item on the list, the Secure Fence Act, passed the House today. After holding more than twenty border security field hearings in the month of August, House Republicans are taking action that will strengthen border security now.

The Republican September agenda for securing the borders includes the following ten items:

More Border Fencing and Improved Surveillance Technology

- **Secure Fence Act:** Authorizes the construction of 700 miles of reinforced fencing along the southwest border. Mandates that the Department of Homeland Security achieve operational control over the entire border through a “virtual fence” that employs cameras, ground sensors, and unmanned aerial vehicles; and provides the necessary authority to border personnel to disable fleeing vehicles. (*House Passed 9/14/06*)

Funding for Secure Border Initiative

- **Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007:** Provides \$3.98 billion for the Secure Border Initiative, the president’s plan to gain operational control of our borders over the next 5 years. Provides \$161 million for border security technology, including aerial surveillance and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Funding for More Border Patrol Agents

- **Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007:** Provides \$2.33 billion in funding for the United States Border Patrol, including funds for 1,200 new border patrol agents, to support a workforce of 13,580 agents. Also provides \$2.65 billion for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including funding for an additional 1,212 ICE agents and officers, for a total of 11,500.

“Catch & Return,” not “Catch & Release”

- **Fairness in Immigration Litigation Act:** Ends outdated injunctions that prevent the effective enforcement of immigration laws and has led to “catch and release” policies. Gangs, such as MS-13, have exploited these loopholes, and many criminal aliens have been released onto our streets.

Detention and Deportation of Alien Gang Members

- **Alien Gang Removal Act:** Prohibits alien gang members from entering the U.S. and allows for detention and deportation of alien gang members already within the country.

Expedited Removal of Alien Criminals

- **Criminal Alien Removal Act:** Allows for expedited removal of alien criminals who are not permanent residents. Currently, these aliens are placed in lengthy removal proceedings despite the fact that they are ineligible for relief.

Increase in Prosecution of Alien Smugglers

- **Alien Smuggler Prosecution Act:** Authorizes an increase in the number of federal prosecutors for alien smuggling cases and encourages the attorney general to establish uniform guidelines for prosecution of smuggling offenses.

Criminalization of Construction and Financing of Border Tunnels

- **Border Tunnel Prevention Act:** Creates criminal penalties of up to 20 years’ imprisonment for knowingly constructing or financing the construction of unauthorized tunnels at the border to stop the possible smuggling of aliens, contraband, drugs, weapons, or terrorists.

Detention of Dangerous Aliens Unable to be Deported

- **Dangerous Alien Detention Act:** Allows for the continued detention of dangerous aliens under orders of removal for more than six months if they cannot be removed within the six month timeframe. Currently the Department of Homeland Security has no choice but to release many criminal aliens back into our country when they cannot be removed in six months.

Reaffirm Authority of State and Local Law Enforcement to Enforce Immigration Laws

- **State and Local Law Enforcement Cooperation in the Enforcement of Immigration Law Act:** Reaffirms the authority of state and local law enforcement to voluntarily investigate, identify, detain, and transfer to federal custody aliens in the United States in order to assist in the enforcement of immigration laws.

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House Republican Conference Press Office

202a Cannon HOB

(202) 226-9000