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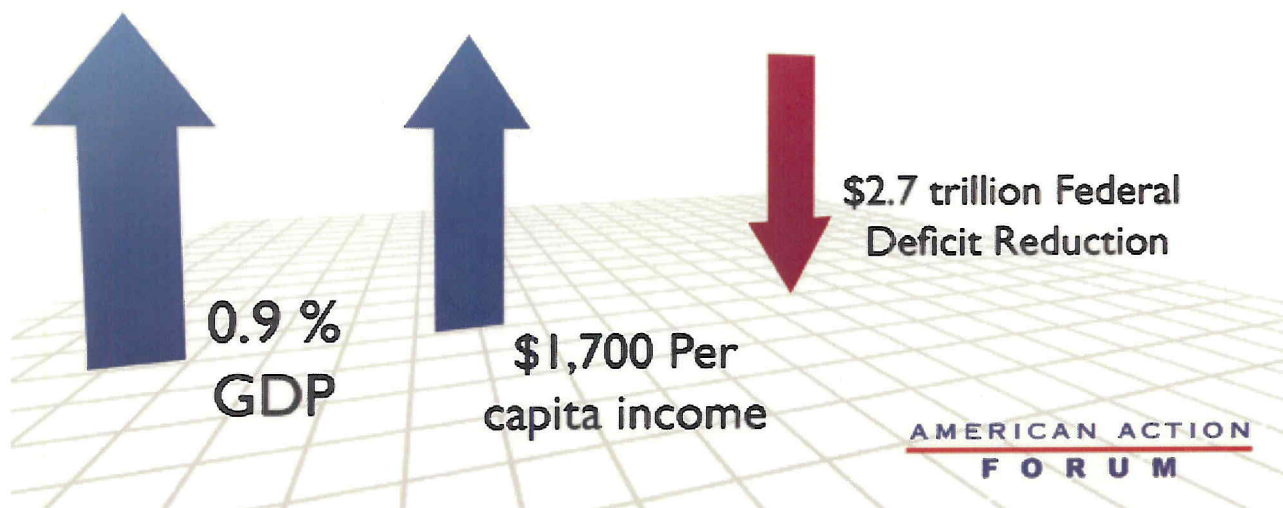
RESPONDING TO FALSE ATTACKS ON THE BIPARTISAN IMMIGRATION PROPOSAL

MYTH #1: Immigration reform will cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

FACT: Immigration reform will save taxpayers \$2.7 trillion and grow the economy.

According to the conservative think tank American Action Forum, headed by Republican economist Doug Holtz-Eakin, immigration reform will generate \$2.7 trillion in deficit reduction add almost a full percentage point to our economic growth, and increase per capita income by \$1,700 over the next decade. The conservative Cato Institute has called the Heritage Foundation's estimates exaggerating the costs of immigration reform "fatally flawed."
[American Action Fund, [4/9/13](#); Cato, [4/4/13](#)]

The Economic Benefits of Immigration Reform



Key Facts:

- This bill will not add a penny to the deficit. The cost of enhanced border security and law enforcement measures in the bill will be fully offset by the revenues generated by fines paid by undocumented immigrants and fees be paid by companies sponsoring immigrant workers.
- The bill restricts newly legalized immigrants' access to federal benefits. Under the bipartisan immigration reform bill, formerly undocumented immigrants are restricted from accessing federal benefits until they become lawful permanent residents, a process that will take ten years, require background checks, learning English, paying taxes, and paying a \$2,000 penalty. As Republican Senator Marco Rubio has said, immigrants with temporary status "will not be able to receive welfare, student aid or any other federal public assistance." [Las Vegas Review-Journal, [1/27/13](#)]
- Even under our current law, immigrants are not a drain on public resources. Taxes paid by immigrants and their children -- both legal and illegal -- exceed the costs of the services they use. For example, studies show that over time unauthorized immigrants have paid \$150 billion to the Social Security system, and CBO estimated that putting them on a path to earn citizenship would boost Social Security by \$57 billion over a decade. All told, unauthorized immigrants paid almost \$50 billion in taxes between 1996 and 2003. [CBO, [12/07](#); Yahoo Finance, [3/14/13](#); CBO, [6/4/07](#); White House, [5/11](#)]
- Fixing our immigration system will provide a boost to the economy because a large number of immigrants are job creators. Over a 10-year period, more than 25 percent of the technology and engineering businesses launched in the U.S. had a foreign-born owner. Immigrants started 25 percent of the highest-growth companies between 1990 and 2005, and these companies, including Intel, Google, Yahoo, and eBay, directly employ an estimated 220,000 people inside the U.S. [White House, [5/11](#); Third Way, [5/11](#)]
- Small businesses owned by immigrants employed an estimated 4.7 million people in 2007, and according to the latest estimates, these small businesses generated more than \$776 billion annually. [White House, [7/12/12](#)]

MYTH #2: Immigration reform that establishes a path to citizenship is amnesty.

FACT: It is not amnesty if you have to earn it. The status quo is de facto amnesty. 84% of Americans support a path to citizenship for the undocumented workers already here.

More than eight in ten Americans back a program that would allow undocumented workers to stay here and apply for citizenship if they have been in the country for several years, have a job, and pay back taxes. Under our bipartisan immigration reform compromise, the 11 million undocumented workers already here would be required to earn their citizenship by passing a background check, learn English, pay taxes, and work towards citizenship over time – that's not amnesty. [CNN, [4/16/13](#)]

Key Facts:

- In this bill, citizenship is earned – not awarded. There are many consequences for violating the law in this bill:
 - The 11 million undocumented immigrants that have come here illegally have to go to the back of the line.
 - They would be required to pass a background check, learn English, pay taxes, pay a steep fine of \$2,000, and work towards citizenship over time – that's anything but amnesty.
 - In fact, it would be cheaper, faster and easier for undocumented immigrants to return home and wait for ten years than it will be to go through the earned citizenship process set up by this bill.
- The vast majority of Americans agree that it is both impossible and impractical to round up and deport the 11 million unauthorized workers living and working in America today. The cost of attempting to deport 11 million unauthorized immigrants could reach over \$230 billion. The \$41 billion per year it would cost is more than the annual discretionary budget for the entire department of Homeland Security. [CAP, [7/26/05](#); CRS, [10/1/12](#)].
- According to a CNN/ORC International survey, 84 percent of the public backs a program that would allow undocumented workers to stay in the U.S. and apply for citizenship if they have been in the country for several years, have a job, and pay back taxes. Among Republicans, support is at 78 percent. [CNN, [4/16/13](#)]

MYTH #3: Immigration reform depresses wages and takes away jobs from American workers.

FACT: Immigrant workers complement our workforce, they don't compete with it. Immigration reform is estimated to contribute to more jobs and higher wages for American workers.

A recent economic study by the Center for American Progress has found that the approach in this bill would increase Americans workers' paychecks by \$470 billion by turning millions of undocumented workers into full taxpayers, and the economy would add an average of 121,000 more jobs per year over the next decade. [CAP, [3/20/13](#)]

Key Facts:

- Under this bill, employers are required to give American workers the first crack at a job opportunity before it can be filled with a visa holder.
- According to the Center for American Progress, under a plan that provides undocumented workers with legal status and eventually allows them to earn citizenship after at least 10 years, Americans' incomes would increase by \$470 billion, and the economy would add an average of 121,000 more jobs per year over a decade. [CAP, [3/20/13](#)]
- The 11 million undocumented immigrants already living and working in America can be turned into full taxpayers who will pay \$109 billion more in federal, state, and local taxes. [CAP, [4/16/03](#)]
- During the decade from 1998 to 2008, unemployment in border states stayed below the national average despite a decade of high immigration levels. [[U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)]
- Each foreign-born graduate of a U.S. university who stays in the U.S. and works in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) creates on average 2.62 jobs for American workers. [ITIC/Partnership for a new Economy/Chamber of Commerce, [11/30/12](#)]

MYTH #4: The border is not secure.

FACT: Under the Obama administration, border enforcement is at an all-time high. This bill will finish the job.

Over the past few years, we've made significant progress in securing our borders and stemming the flow of illegal entries. Illegal border crossings are down nearly 80 percent, and the number of border patrol agents has doubled over the past eight years. This bill makes significant investments in border security—up to \$6.5 billion—to finish the job and make sure that at least 90 percent of all illegal border crossings are prevented.

Key Facts:

- The bipartisan immigration reform bill will commit as much as an additional \$6.5 billion in the next few years to enact a strategy to have 100 percent surveillance and prevent at least 90 percent of all illegal border crossings across the highest-risk areas of our southern border.
- Illegal border crossings are down nearly 80 percent from their peak in 2000. In recent years, the U.S. put more boots on the ground along the southern border than at any other time in our history. Over the past eight years, the number of border patrol agents has doubled to more than 20,000, and the budgets for CBP and ICE have grown by over 85%. [White House, [1/29/13](#); MPI, [1/13](#)]
- These resources have also beefed up physical security, including the completion of 651 miles of fencing, 300 radar and camera towers, and nine drones. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) successfully denied 212,000 foreign nationals entry into the U.S. in 2011. [Washington Post, [1/29/13](#); DHS, [9/12](#)]
- In addition to security measures, enforcement actions have increased significantly. Prosecutions for illegal entry have grown at an unprecedented rate under the Obama administration, and immigration-related crimes now account for more than half of federal prosecutions. [MPI, [1/13](#)]
- In 2011, ICE removed an all-time high of 188,000 known criminal unauthorized immigrants from the U.S. The deportation of illegal immigrants with criminal records increased by more than 70 percent in 2010 as compared to 2008, and under President Obama, a record total of 1.5 million unauthorized immigrants have been deported. [DHS, [9/12](#); White House, [5/11](#); NPR, [12/24/12](#)]

MYTH #5: This bill is being rammed through without enough transparency and not enough debate.

FACT: This is the beginning of the process, not the end of it. This bill will be available for all to read and understand for weeks before its first legislative action in the Senate.

This compromise will receive a full and fair public debate. The full legislative language will be posted online in its entirety for everyone to read. There will be multiple hearings on this bill. It will undergo an open and extensive markup in the Senate Judiciary Committee. And it will undergo extended consideration by the full Senate.

Key Facts:

- The full text of the bill is available online.
- Already, there have been five hearings on immigration reform in this Congress. The Senate Judiciary Committee has held three hearings on immigration reform this Congress, with testimony from 16 different witnesses. The Homeland Security Committee has held two hearings.
- Judiciary Committee Chairman Leahy has pledged to hold two more hearings now that the bill has been introduced.
- Other Senate committees are planning hearings on the bill.
- There will be at least three weeks between when the bill is introduced and when it will be marked up in Committee. That will give everyone plenty of opportunity to read and review the bill.
- **Sen. John McCain (R-AZ):** “Some are saying that-- some are saying, wow, we're not having enough hearings, we're not having enough-- first of all, we know the issue. But second of all, the Judiciary Committee will act. There will be amendments. There will be debate. Then it will go to the floor of the Senate. There will be plenty of time for discussion and debate so I reject this notion that something is being railroaded through. This is-- this is the beginning of the process, not the end of it.” [CBS Face the Nation, [4/7/13](#)]