



Week of June 10th

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WASHINGTON SURF REPORT

Welcome to the Washington Surf Report for the week of June 10th-16th. I hope you're getting a nice start to the summer season and that the waves are friendly. Of course, we're all rooting for our Padres to stay a top of the NL West. Back here in Washington, Congress is once again debating the issue of illegal immigration. It's been clear from the feedback we've received from your phone calls, letters, faxes and e-mails that San Diegans do not favor the Kennedy-Bush Amnesty Plan. Here is a quick update on some of the developments here in D.C.



What part of illegal don't Senators understand?

As the Senate considers illegal immigration reform legislation, my office has been inundated with phone calls from constituents asking, "What part of 'illegal' don't senators understand?"

You would think that Congress would learn from the failures of the past. We've all seen how the 1986 amnesty bill became a gateway for illegal immigration. What was promised as a one-time fix that would be matched with real employer enforcement and commitment to securing the border resulted in a public policy nightmare we are almost doomed to repeat. Why anyone thinks that repeating the failed policies of years gone by is the solution to this out-of-control problem is beyond me.

While some may dispute using the term "amnesty" to describe this proposal, that's exactly what it is — a bill that would set aside an exclusive program for 12 million to 20 million illegal immigrants that allows them to stay in the country while going through the legalization process. All the while we have millions of immigrants waiting to come to the USA legally. The Senate plan sends the message that these immigrants would be better served by violating our laws, rather than by following them.

Even more telling is the opposition of the National Border Patrol Council, the organization that represents more than 10,000 border patrol agents and support personnel. The NBPC vehemently opposes this bill, saying it would exacerbate the problem — not solve it.

We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. This most basic principle is why so many flock to our nation. It is our right and our responsibility to maintain and defend the laws that govern our land, and no one should be exempt from them.



News Updates

- Immigration Reform Caucus launches new website—visit www.house.gov/bilbray/irc for the latest information on the immigration debate.
- Amid Kennedy-Bush amnesty debate, Immigration Reform Caucus welcomes new members: Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Nancy Boyda (D-KS), Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Reps. Adrian Smith (R-NE), Tom Feeney (R-FL), Ron Lewis (R-KY), Todd Tiahrt (R-KS), Heath Shuler (D-NC), Tim Walberg (R-MI), Bart Gordon (D-TN), Bill Sali (R-ID), Gene Taylor (D-MS) and Todd Platts (R-PA) and Darrell Issa (R-CA).
- House passes Bilbray-sponsored resolution honoring the life of astronaut Walter "Wally" Schirra.

Washington D.C. Office
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202-225-0508

Fax: 202-225-2558

District Office
462 Stevens Avenue, #107
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Phone: 858-350-1150

Fax: 858-350-0750