



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Have we lost all sanity when it comes to the immigration debate?

When I saw that question in print a few weeks ago, my first inclination was to think it was a bit extreme.

Now, I'm not so sure.

The more one focuses on the challenges our nation faces in bringing forth responsible immigration reform, the more evident it becomes that we are trying to solve this problem in a highly-charged social and political environment which continues to spin more and more out of control with each passing day.

We are now to the point where a multitude of states are looking to follow Arizona's example and leap-frog over the federal government to more aggressively enforce federal immigration laws.

We have a Homeland Security Department which freely lets felonious immigrants who are scheduled to be deported run rampant in our communities instead of being incarcerated.

We have a U.S. Attorney General, Eric Holder, who has gone to court to sue a state (AZ) for passing legislation that would strengthen immigration laws while totally ignoring dozens of "sanctuary" cities like San Francisco and New York where federal immigration laws are not enforced.

We have a U.S. Senator, Jon Kyl (R, AZ), who says that

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NEW PEW RESEARCH STUDY: 1 IN 12 U.S. BIRTHS ARE TIED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

When it comes to discussing population issues, numbers speak very loudly.

That is why all Americans should be alarmed at the news that the total number of children in the U.S. born to illegal immigrants on U.S. soil jumped to 4 million in 2009, up from 2.7 million in 2003.

The numbers come from a new report released by the non-partisan and well-respected Pew Hispanic Center and show that those children represent 5.4% of all children under the age of 18 – up from 3.7% six years earlier.

The Pew report notes that: "Undocumented immigrants make up slightly more than 4% of the U.S. adult population. However, their babies represented twice that share, or 8%, of all births on U.S. soil in 2008."

In writing about the Pew report, *The Wall Street Journal* quoted Jeffrey Passel, a senior demographer at Pew as stating: "Unauthorized immigrants are younger than the rest of the population, are more likely to be married and have higher fertility rates than the rest of the population."

The *WSJ* also noted: "The report, based on Pew's analysis of the Census Bureau's March 2009 Current Population Survey, also found that the lion's share, or 79%, of the 5.1 million children of illegal immigrants residing in the U.S. in 2009 were born in the country and are therefore citizens."

The numbers released by the Pew Hispanic Center only give more credence to the projection that the overwhelming majority of U.S. population growth in the next four decades will be the result of illegal and legal immigration. Is there a better argument for securing our borders, forcing more illegals to return to their homeland and changing the national policy on "anchor babies?"

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



This year, a majority of Americans have consistently told pollsters that they are against granting amnesty/citizenship to millions of illegal aliens and in favor of states and communities being more aggressive in enforcing federal immigration laws. That's good news. But it won't mean a thing if we don't elect a new batch of leaders who, rather than turning a deaf ear to our concerns on these matters, are willing to heed the will of the people. Rarely before have we had an opportunity to elect so many new leaders who can help advance NPG's goals. In the coming weeks, please research how candidates in your area stand on immigration-related issues and make sure you cast an informed ballot in this November's elections.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(Continued from page 1)*

President Obama told him flat-out that he was unwilling to secure our borders because it would decrease the chances to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

We have national polls that show 70 to 80 percent of Americans feel we must better enforce our borders, yet Washington, D.C. takes mini-steps to stop the continuous flow of illegals into our country.

We have individuals who freely label those Americans who seek to resolve the immigration issue in a responsible manner as “racists” with no rebuke from the media, the White House or other elected leaders.

And we have the national press running stories that President Obama is considering doing an end run around Congress and issuing an Executive Order in favor of amnesty/citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants.

The White House press office shot down that last item as untrue but then an 11-page West Wing memo came to light proving in black and white that there was credibility to the story.

That the power players in Washington didn't roar their disapproval over consideration of such an extreme measure which would be a slap in the face to our democratic form of government only underscores the insanity that has pervaded this debate.

And finally, we have countless millions of people who broke the law to get into our country demanding full American citizenship and far too many of our elected

leaders ready to pander to their demands.

As a nation we seem to have gone seriously off track in discussing the immigration issue. And until we get back on track to where we can discuss this entire matter and carry on a highly-informed national debate, we simply won't make any progress on this issue.

In all, it must be remembered that the decisions we make about immigration policy will impact every American for decades to come. A final immigration bill will be as important to our shared future as any arms treaty, energy initiative or health care policy. We must get it right!

NPG is doing all it can to restore common sense to the national debate. We have spent decades working to persuade our elected leaders to stop out-of-control immigration and put our nation on a sustainable population path. We have earned a reputation as an influential organization when it comes to population policy, information and education. In concert with our members, hardly a month goes by where we do not work to educate our Senators and Congressmen with fact-filled NPG Forum Papers, targeted media ads, or direct citizen petitions. Every day we grow more committed to winning this fight. I'm still confident that by working together and keeping the pressure on our elected leaders we can make progress to slow, halt and eventually reverse today's disastrous population growth. But first, some sanity must be restored to this critical debate.

STATE LEGISLATURES AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Arizona's actions in passing S.B. 1070 and its efforts to become more aggressive in enforcing federal immigration laws set off a national firestorm on the roles of states when it comes to immigration laws. Today, a good number of state legislatures are looking to emulate Arizona's actions. While states cannot set national immigration policy, their actions can put more pressure on the Obama administration to pursue a stronger “get tough” policy when it comes to dealing with the millions of illegal aliens now in our country who are costing states hundreds of millions – often billions – of dollars and taking jobs from American citizens in today's depressed economy.

What most Americans don't realize is how often state legislators are called on to address immigration issues. The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) notes that hundreds of immigration-related bills are introduced each year in statehouses across the nation. Employment, law enforcement and drivers license/identification measures top the list of issues that are addressed. NCSL's tally for the first six months of this year shows that state legislators in 46 states introduced 1,374 bills and resolutions relating to



immigration and refugees. Thus far, 44 state legislatures have passed 191 laws and adopted 128 resolutions – an increase of 21% over similar measures in 2009. Other bills were defeated or are still under consideration in states where the legislature has not adjourned.

REACHING OUT TO TEACHERS... AND STUDENTS

The school bell has rung for a new academic year and NPG is planning on being even more active in expanding our educational efforts in the nation's schools and colleges. Our program earlier this year was designed to place NPG Student Fact Sheets into hundreds of classrooms for population discussions related to the U.S. Census and Earth Day and it was a huge success.

In the coming months we hope to build a more solid link with the hundreds of teachers in 43 states who participated in this year's effort and greatly expand their numbers. We are currently developing an entirely new Teacher's Packet, complete with an expanded NPG Fact Sheet, for distribution later this fall. Once the final 2010 Census numbers are released in January, we will create a new NPG Student Poster, similar to the "300 Million People" student poster we created in 2006 that proved to be such a big hit in the educational community.

In addition to working with the nation's teachers in grades 4 thru 12, we are also starting to lay the foundation for a new program which would create a national network of socially-conscious college students. We will target students who believe in NPG's mission and goals and who will help take our message to



their peers. The thousands of students who have participated in our NPG Scholarship program in recent years prove that there is strong interest in our issues among this significant age group.

As America's population continues to soar, today's young people are becoming very aware of the fact that their generation will not be able to escape the multitude of disasters that will be triggered by huge numbers of people. They know we must act now to initiate responsible population policies before it is too late. NPG is ready to show them how they can use their individual and collective clout to work with us to halt and reverse today's unsustainable population numbers.

We greatly value the financial support of our dedicated NPG members who consistently respond to our requests for extra funds to help us expand our educational programs.

CONGRESS TRIES AMNESTY AGAIN

Congress will return to Capitol Hill for a lame-duck session after the November elections. And it looks ever more likely that the congressional leadership will try to pass amnesty for illegal immigrants before they lose their House majority.

On September 15, President Barack Obama spoke to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's Gala dinner. He told the audience that he was frustrated that he had not been able to pass "comprehensive immigration reform." That's a code word for amnesty for illegal immigrants.

And he pledged to get amnesty through Congress immediately by stating: "But let me be clear: I will not walk away from this fight. My commitment is getting this done as soon as we can."

A week later, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid tried to sneak an amnesty amendment into the comprehensive defense bill. The amnesty amendment was barely blocked by an extended debate.

So we expect an immigration bill to come up after the election in the lame-duck session. Incumbents, even those who will retire or lost their bids for re-election, will be entitled to vote on this amnesty proposal. In some cases, incumbents may vacate their seats early to provide a boost to their successors' "seniority" (or leadership priority) in the next Congress. So there may be a lot of people in Congress who will be a bit insulated from public pressure against amnesty.

We will be asking members to join us in educating these "lame-ducks" yet again on how Americans feel about amnesty for illegal immigrants. We will be asking for signatures on petitions to members of the Senate opposing any amnesty in the lame-duck session. Those mailings will arrive within a few weeks, and we urge you to help us keep the pressure on the "lame-ducks."

NPG President Don Mann commented on this project by saying: "The vast majority of Americans are opposed to amnesty measures. This is not a minor issue. Poor decisions made during a lame-duck session will have devastating and long-term consequences for our nation."

2010 NPG SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Our 2010 NPG National Scholarship Contest challenged students to create a print advertisement that persuasively put forth NPG's message to slow, halt and eventually reverse population growth and could run in a magazine or newspaper. Thousands of students participated and the results were outstanding. We will be working over the coming months to create ads using their inspiring ideas.

We are proud to salute our 2010 Scholarship winners:

Kimberly Andresen, Cornell College (Mount Vernon, IA) – \$1,000

Udayan Gupta, New York University – \$500

Kseniya Kuprienko, Stevens Institute of Technology (Hoboken, NJ) – \$1,000

Lindsey Hamilton, Salisbury University – (Salisbury, MD) – \$500

Lauren Busch, Duke University – \$500

Camille Kirch, The Illinois Institute of Art, Chicago – \$500

Rona Ding, University of Washington, Seattle – \$500

Texts of the winning entries are available on our website at www.npg.org.

GRAHAM SUPPORT BOOSTS “ANCHOR BABIES” ISSUE

Our Spring issue of *Population Perspectives* reported on the growing interest in the nation about changing the rules regarding the 14th Amendment that grants automatic U.S. citizenship to the approximately 340,000 babies born annually to illegal immigrants and temporary-visa aliens. At the time, we related how the issue was languishing in Congress with little attention being paid to it by the national media.

That all changed in July when Senator Lindsey Graham (R, SC) who has played a key role in the national immigration debate came down foursquare on the side of those who want to alter the rules.

Citing the need to change the current law, Senator Graham stated: “I’m a practical guy, but when you go forward I don’t want 20 million more [illegal immigrants] 20 years from now.” He went on to note: “Let’s have a system that doesn’t reward people for cheating.” Graham made clear that he would consider crafting a constitutional amendment that would

clarify the present language of the 14th Amendment which was interpreted by the Supreme Court years ago to apply to “anchor babies.”

Senator Graham’s support will definitely catapult this issue to the forefront of national debate. However, we can’t get our hopes up for quick action. News analysts and pundits reporting on the issue note that it will take a major Republican takeover in Congress this November – including winning control of both the House and Senate – to move legislation against “anchor babies” through Congress. Even if it were possible to accomplish that major feat, the legislation would almost certainly face an automatic veto from President Obama.

A bill introduced last year by former Congressman Nathan Deal (R, GA) calls for the law to be changed so that “birthright citizenship” as prescribed in the 14th Amendment would only apply if one of the child’s parents is a U.S. citizen or national, or a legal immigrant.



NPG is committed to advancing any legislation that would radically cut the number of “anchor babies.” Few actions would have such a powerful impact on helping to rein in our nation’s future population growth. What we must worry about, however, is that as important as this issue is, we cannot allow the open-border advocates to muddy the waters on the immigration debate and use it to divert efforts to advance other key aspects of responsible immigration reform.

QUOTABLE:

“...Arizona did not deem these people illegal aliens. The federal government did in laws passed by Congress and signed by the president of the United States. Arizona thinks these laws mean something. If the Justice Department’s suit – and Judge Bolton’s line of argument – prevails, then we’ll know that they don’t. The real law of the land will be our current, de facto amnesty, imposed by executive whim.”

–The Editors, *National Review Online*

“Regardless of what immigration policy anyone believes in, the government cannot carry out that policy until after it has first gained control of the borders. Regardless of what Washington politicians may say about how many immigrants should be allowed in the country, or on what basis, none of that matters when the real decision is in the hands of innumerable other people, who can simply climb over a fence along the border and come on in whenever they feel like it.”

–Thomas Sowell, National Columnist



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