

UPDATE
JUNE 8, 2007

SENATE VOTES TO DERAIL IMMIGRATION REFORM Debate Is Far from Over

Last night, there was a cloture vote in the U.S. Senate that would have limited debate on the immigration reform bill and moved toward a final vote. This vote to move the process forward was rejected 45 to 50. Most senators seemed willing to move forward on the legislation and negotiate an additional number of amendments. Unfortunately, a small group of senators who oppose immigration reform blocked the bill by demanding amendments that would have severely weakened it.

What happens now?

As a result of the failed cloture vote last night, Senator Reid (D-NV) has decided to pull the immigration bill from the floor, and the Senate will no longer debate it. However, Senator Kennedy (D-MA) and other champions of the bill from both parties have vowed to continue their negotiations and bring the bill back to the Senate. While this is a significant blow, there is hope that a comprehensive immigration reform bill will be resuscitated and the process will move forward.

What can we do?

It is important that we weigh in with our senators to tell them that we are disappointed that the Senate was not able to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Remember to thank the senators who voted for cloture and express disappointment toward those who opposed it. Continue to put pressure on all senators and demand that they pass comprehensive immigration reform this year.

It is also important that you get in touch with House members and let them know that you are expecting them to show leadership in solving our immigration problem.

Please write the following to your congressional members:

I am extremely disappointed that our senators were unable to proceed with the immigration bill and did not let the debate continue on this crucial piece of legislation. The American public has overwhelmingly called for our Congress to fix this problem. I hope you will demonstrate leadership and move the process forward so that we can get a bill that brings the undocumented out of the shadows, gives us a good new worker visa program for people to come to the U.S. in the future, reduces the entire family backlog, and protects all workers.