

**Remarks by  
Assistant to the President for  
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**Thank you, Lee, for that kind introduction. It is a pleasure to be here today to speak to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. I've seen the great work that your center has been accomplishing for years, Lee, and I must say that it was a true honor to be invited here to speak.**

**As many of you know I am currently President Bush's Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor, advising the President on things as far reaching as National Preparedness for Hurricanes or a pandemic, to our CT relationship with allies around the world to things as close to home as border control and immigration.**

**And I intended to come here to talk to you primarily on the first of those issues – the steps that we have taken to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season and how those steps prepare us for all disasters -- both those from the acts of evil men in the form of a terrorist attack, or the natural disaster that is caused when a massive hurricane hits our shores.**

**It is the topic of transformation that stood out in my mind as I began to prepare for my remarks to you today. Since taking office, the President has made securing our borders a National priority, while at the same time advocating for the transformation of our immigration process.**

**So, Lee, with your permission, I think today I will chat a little bit about what the President spoke to the Nation two days ago – securing our borders and transforming our immigration laws and policies.**

**Monday Night, President Bush laid out a basic five-step plan that we would implement to accomplish this goal: First, we must secure our borders. Second, we must create a temporary worker program for foreign workers to enter our country in a temporary, orderly way. Third, we must hold employers to account for the workers they hire. Fourth, we must deal with the millions of illegal immigrants that are currently here in America, and fifth, we must honor the great American tradition as a melting pot.**

**This morning I will address these five areas, and discuss some of the details of the plan that President Bush laid out, as well as to demonstrate to you the many steps we have taken, and the many steps we will take, to protect our country.**

### **FIRST, SECURING OUR BORDER**

**While it is politically expedient to say that the President is now focusing on Border Security to assuage his base, or to improve his approval ratings, the fact remains that this is not a new idea. In 2001, President Bush realized the need to secure our border, and, since President Bush took office, we have increased the funding for border security by 66%, expanding the number of badge-carrying Border Patrol agents by roughly 25%. So that by the end of this year we will have a total of roughly 12,300 Border Patrol Agents securing our borders.**

**More agents mean more area will be covered and more illegal cross-border traffic will be interdicted and deterred. By the end of the Bush administration – in 2008 – the President has called for an increase in The Number Of Border Patrol Agents By another 6,000. This would bring the total Border Patrol strength to over 18,000 – doubling what the President inherited in 2001.**

**And we are not only concentrating on manpower for our expansive border. This year, under the President's leadership, we will begin a comprehensive program to construct high-tech fences in urban corridors, and build new patrol roads in rural areas. On the issue of tactical infrastructure, let me be very clear, we will continue to build fences where they are most effective, as we have done in San Diego.**

**In more rural areas it is often a combination of infrastructure such as roads, anti-vehicle barriers, and enhanced long-range surveillance that best maximizes the capability of the Border Patrol to interdict and deter illegal entries.**

**We will employ motion sensors, we will employ infrared cameras, we will employ unmanned aerial vehicles. We will give the men and women of the United States Border Patrol all the technological help they need and deserve to ensure the efficiency and efficacy of our border security efforts.**

**We are also working to reform the bureaucratic obstacles that have risen to ensure that our government and our processes are geared towards stemming the flow of illegal immigration. For years, we lacked sufficient beds to house illegals that were caught attempting to cross into our country. We gave them a court date and asked them to return to appear before a judge and be charged with a crime.**

**This process was labeled Catch and Release after the common fishing practice. We'd catch an illegal immigrant, release him to our society, and then quizzically ask ourselves why they failed to return to court.**

**To fix this, we have worked with Congress to provide money to increase the number of beds in detention facilities. We currently fund 20,800 beds. The President's FY06 Budget Funds 1,900 Additional Beds and the President's supplemental budget request will ask for 4,000 more. The President's FY 2007 budget proposes increasing the number of beds in detention facilities by another 32 percent. (27,500)**

**This increase will help to house the immigrants that we catch, allowing us to ensure they are present for their day in court, and ensuring they are present to be returned to their home countries.**

**We are also working to expedite the legal process. By increasing the number of beds in our facilities, by reducing the length of time we**

hold illegals in those beds, and by reducing the paperwork and legal obstacles it takes to return the illegals to their home countries, we will be able to more effectively patrol our borders and spend less time housing them in jails.

And we know that we must rely on our partners at the borders – the state, local and tribal governments. DHS, through programs like Operation Stonegarden, is working to provide grants for overtime and travel expenses, allowing local, state and tribal law enforcement agencies to increase manpower required in specific areas. The President will add another 15 million dollars to the 20 million dollar existing program. We are also utilizing section 287(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which authorizes DHS to train state and local law enforcement officials in immigration enforcement.

The President will take this from a \$5.5 million program and make it a \$50 million program, because a strong partnership with our state and local partners is critical in securing our borders.

I come to you today as a former local – I was a prosecutor in the Brooklyn DA's Office – I was also a Federal Prosecutor. I know that the Federal Government does not always have the answer, and I realize that no one knows the area around the cities/towns/tribal regions along the border like those that live and work there full-time. We must utilize their experience and expertise to help us.

But, sadly, the fact remains that our Southern Border stretches for more than 1900 miles. We can setup the correct systems, we can utilize the latest and greatest technology, but we know that there is no replacement for manpower. Nothing beats boots on the ground.

President Bush spoke of sending the National Guard to the border. I must emphasize that the National Guard will not be there to militarize the border, they will not be there to arrest those that are trying to enter our country, but rather, they will be there in a support role, aiding and assisting the Border Patrol as they continue their efforts, utilizing their annual training time and their military skills to help secure the border.

**For example, many Border Patrol Agents, 1811s, trained law enforcement officers that carry a badge and a gun, are currently working in backroom offices or driving equipment in support roles. They are not able to patrol our border and catch those attempting to come here illegally. By a combination of outsourcing, and temporarily utilizing National Guardsmen when their military skills are appropriate to the role, , we will have the ability to move these officers to the front line, securing our nation and our citizens.**

**In coordination with our state governors, the National Guard will send a force of up to 6,000 guard members to aid the border security mission. This number is less than 2% of our National Guard force, and it is our intent to utilize their time on the border to fulfill their legally required training missions and rotations that they must accomplish on a yearly basis. National Guard deployments will provide a temporary force multiplier during the period in which the Border Patrol expands the size of the force and adds additional technological and infrastructure capabilities.**

**The Guard will not be conducting direct law enforcement roles, such as apprehension or handling detainees, but will bring their unique military skills in the areas most relevant to supporting border enforcement, such as combat engineers building tactical infrastructure, aviation units providing rapid mobility for border interdictions, and surveillance capabilities to better vector Border Patrol officers to their targets. But do not be misled == DHS remains the lead in our border security efforts.**

#### **(BRIDGES/BLUM EXAMPLE)**

**By increasing the number of Border Patrol agents and funding, by providing Border Patrol Agents the best technology, by reducing our self-created handicaps and by backing up our law enforcement officers with some of the best soldiers in the world, we will make the mission of securing our border an achievable one.**

## **TEMPORARY WORKER PROGRAM**

**The President stated that we need to create a temporary worker program in conjunction with any steps we take to strictly secure our border.**

**America's economy is flourishing. Our growth is up, unemployment is down, profits are rising and inflation is staying low. A part of this program is the labor that foreign workers supply that American workers are not willing to do. Willing American employers and willing foreign workers must not be shut out of our economy or face unnecessary burdens.**

**The temporary worker program meets the needs of our economy, eases the financial burden on state and local governments, and adds to our security. Those that would enter our country legally, under the temporary worker program, would be forced to pass criminal background checks, and must return to their countries at the end of their stay.**

**This temporary workers program would allow honest, hardworking immigrants the ability to provide for themselves and their families, replacing illegal workers with lawful taxpayers, and enabling us to ensure we know who is in our country and why they are here.**

**The President knows that the majority of the immigrants that come to our country come here looking for work. He knows that our economy depends on the labor that they provide to our businesses. The temporary worker program, combined with strengthened borders, will allow us to help those that are seeking a better way of life, while preserving the lawful society that is America.**

## **HOLDING EMPLOYERS ACCOUNTABLE**

**The temporary worker program, an attempt to bring illegal immigrants out of the shadows and into society, is predicated upon a business model that abides by the law.**

**As long as businesses are willing to take advantage of the cheap labor that illegal immigrants provide, we will continue to have illegal immigrants attempting to sneak into our country, as well maintain a society of illegal immigrants that are in our country, fearing for their jobs and well-being from their illegal employer.**

**Those that hire cheap illegal labor skip out on the tax revenue they are supposed to supply, and they deny their workers the benefits they deserve. Frankly, the practice is un-American.**

**We need to have a biometric identification card for every legal worker that will allow employers to verify whom they are hiring and allow immigrants to prove whom they are. Simply put, this allows employers and the government to know who is employed and where, while providing the immigrant to whom it is issued a foolproof, legal method of identifying themselves for employment and other legal purposes. This coupled with an expansion of our electronic employer verification system will ensure there is no excuse for foreigners hiring illegals.**

### **DEALING WITH IMMIGRANTS THAT ARE HERE**

**President Bush believes that the mass deportation of those here in our country illegally, numbered between 11-12 million, is not only impracticable, but also unwise.**

**Let me be clear, the President does not believe that illegal immigrants should be given amnesty. We must not reward those that have participated in illegal behavior, and we must not punish those that have toiled and waited to enter our country legally.**

**But the President believes there is a rational and respectful approach which is neither an automatic path to citizenship nor a program of mass deportation. The President believes that we must increase the number of green cards available to those that wish to enter America legally, to make it easier for hardworking foreigners to become Americans and share in our dream. But the President also understands the often grey fact that a family that has been here for many years, has a clean record, a job and has lived a good life, is different from someone who just recently has attempted to enter our**

land. Those that have established roots in our country frankly are here under different circumstances.

Approval will not be automatic – those that are here illegally will have to wait behind those that have played by the rules and followed the law. They will have to pay taxes, pay a penalty for their illegal behavior, and they will have to learn English. They will to show they have now and have had for a time, paid employment. But they will not be mass deported – a feat that aside from its inherent impracticabilities, would simply be impossible to do. Our goal is not to scare those that are already here further into the shadows, but rather to bring those that are here in the shadows into the light that Winthrop and Reagan saw shining upon the “city on a hill” that is America.

### **HONORING THE GREAT AMERICAN TRADITION OF THE MELTING POT**

I am the granddaughter of immigrants. I am the first in my family to graduate from high school, let alone college and law school. I am proof positive that those that come to our country can make a meaningful contribution – I promise you that if you told my Grandparents that their granddaughter would be an advisor to the President of the United States they would not have believed you. But that is what makes America great. It is a country where that is not only possible, it is commonplace.

But we also cannot lose the fabric that binds us together as Americans, and a great part of that fabric is the English language. We respect the flag that Betsy Ross sewed together long ago in Philadelphia, and we respect the language that our forefathers spoke when they came to the continent. We must remain open to those that wish to come here to live and work, but we must ensure that the things that define us as Americans are not overlooked or changed. And that those who enter legally come to adopt as their own – this common heritage and culture which is the glue that binds us.

Woodrow Wilson stated that “A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.”



**We must remember where we came from. We must remember what we have been about. And we must be clear about what we are trying to do.**

**Our goal is a safe and secure America. Our goal is a country that knows who its citizens are and where they come from. Our goal is a country where opportunity abounds for those that wish to abide by the law.**

**To do this we must address the many facets of our border and immigration control issues all together, or none of them will be solved at all. We must work together – all three branches of government – to get the President a comprehensive immigration bill to sign. And we must do this without inciting people to anger or playing on anyone's fears.**

**To paraphrase Wilson, We must remember that we are not here merely to make a living, but are here “in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement.” We are here to “enrich the world, and we impoverish ourselves if we forget the errand.”**

**I thank you for the opportunity to speak. And I look forward to your questions.**