

AILA National Media Liaisons Committee Call 3/6/14

Participants from San Diego Chapter, Georgia-Alabama, Washington, DC, Connecticut, New Jersey, Minnesota, Santa Clara, Arizona, Washington State, and Los Angeles

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1. 2014 Advocacy Update

- a. Not too much happened last 6 months in the House. 5 bills have come out of committee. Some, like the SAFE Act, are terrible.
- b. End of January House Republicans released standards for immigration reform. Lays out priorities and positions on certain issues. Preamble acknowledges need to fix the broken system. Obviously strong emphasis on border security and enforcement, entry/exit visa tracking system and E-Verify. Reforms to legal immigration system from family to employment-based. DREAMers explicitly given opportunity for LPR and then citizenship. Undocumented population would be given legal status but no special path to citizenship/move to front of the line.
- c. Thought this was a sign we might see some legislative language dealing with legalization. Then push back happened that weekend—the “don’t trust Obama to enforce the law” argument.
- d. Some possible momentum since then. Republican response to SOTU included positive remarks on immigration. Some bipartisan work happening with Beto O’Rourke (D-TX) and Steve Pearce (R-NM) working together on two bills: judicial discretion and border accountability.
- e. Timing: 80% of House primary filing deadlines will be completed by end of April, will help Rs determine whether they will have an attack from the right about immigration reform.
- f. About the half the primaries will be completed by June.
- g. That means possible windows for House action on reform would be end of April/early May, end of June/July, or during lame duck session.
- h. There has been public push back, including Sen. Menendez, on President Obama to stop deportations/ease suffering. In April, sometime between the 5th and 15th the Obama Administration will hit 2 million removals.
- i. Discharge petition, a legislative strategy to try and get H.R. 15 on the House floor is probably not going to be successful.
- j. National Day of Action—April 10. Theme is “Taking on the House.” Still encourage people to meet with the Senate re. appropriations and other issues but a lot of prioritizing of Republican House members.
- k. Lunchtime speakers—Sen. Leahy and Bennett, Rep Gutierrez, Garcia from FL, and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte to give brief comments.

2. National media interest

- Border issues/impact of deportations
- 2 million deportation mark approaching, expect that to continue.
- Extreme delays in Immigration Court proceedings