



Granting amnesty could cost taxpayers trillions

May 7, 2013

Reports show millions of illegal immigrants are living in the United States and some lawmakers want to grant amnesty to them. But a new study shows, that could cost the American taxpayer more than \$6 trillion.

The Heritage Foundation studied the cost of putting 11 million illegal immigrants on the path to citizenship. "Congress when it considers immigration reform, when it includes amnesty, must consider the cost"

The Heritage Foundation took into account dozens of programs that illegal immigrants could use, from social security to food stamps to medicare. It also calculated the cost of education and services like fire and police departments. "It will cost taxpayers trillions of dollars over the next several decades and it will make the immigration problem worse. The amnesty recipients will receive \$9.4 trillion in government services, and will pay \$3.1 trillion in taxes for a net deficit of \$6.3 trillion."

But supporters of amnesty say it will ultimately pay-off.

Jose Morlaes is a legal immigrant from Colombia. He came to the U.S. when he was nine-years-old. He now owns his own restaurant. He says immigrants, even if they're not here legally, bring new ideas and good work habits which ultimately boosts the economy. "The backbone of this country is immigrants. It's a country made by immigrants, they come over with an idea, and that works."

But back in Washington, his optimism is not shared. Instead, the warnings are dire.

Other conservative groups are criticizing the Heritage Foundation study. The "Cato Institute" and "Americans for Prosperity" say the study is flawed because it doesn't fully take into account all the economic factors of immigration.