

Economic impact from Immigration Reform

Two Cents

By: Lawrence J. Joyce – May 20, 2013

Recently the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute have been sparring over the economic impact of federal immigration reform. But they both miss the main point. The real economic impact lies in a subtle aspect of the pending federal legislation.

The subtlety lies in a two-pronged strategy of the Democrats. First, there is no constitutional way to force the federal government to enforce its own laws.

Second, if the current federal immigration bill becomes law, the U.S. Supreme Court will hold that this law is intended to strip from the States their concurrent right to legislate in this field. Arizona's S.B. 1070, which the Supreme Court upheld in substantial part in 2012, will be voided.

Here's what that means: The Democrats will agree to include in the current immigration bill virtually everything which Republicans will insist on in order to win the support of Republicans for the bill. Then, when the bill becomes law, no Democratic President will enforce those provisions which the Democrats don't like. At that point no one will be able to sue the government to force it to enforce those key provisions which the Republicans insisted on in order to gain their support for the bill; simultaneously, the states will be stripped of their authority to do anything about immigration, either.

Even with respect to the provision proposed by Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, which would prohibit those who entered illegally from ever voting, a Democratic Justice Department will harass states which seek to keep those who entered illegally from voting on two grounds: First, on the grounds that the new federal law makes enforcement of all aspects of immigration reform the exclusive domain of federal law, and therefore preempts the States from taking action on their own; second, states which take such actions to prevent illegal voting are supposedly racially discriminatory and are harassing minorities.

The upshot of all this is that in all probability, the 11 million-plus aliens who entered illegally will be free to go ahead and vote. And they will vote for the Democrat for President every single time. And given the current voting trends of our nation, that means a Democrat will win the presidential election every single time.

So even if the Republicans should happen to capture both the House and the Senate simultaneously, every President from now on will veto any repeal or substantial modification of immigration law.

All things considered, then, what this means is that federal immigration reform is marching a nation of unsuspecting voters into a cage from which the rightful electorate will never emerge.

No wonder the Democrats are so anxious to get this bill passed. The election of 2016 will be here before long, and they want to be prepared to make it the first election in which

they virtually guarantee a never-ending string of Democratic victories. And one need not be a rocket scientist to figure out what the economic impact of that will be.

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