

## Obama huddles with Dems

By: Scott Wong – July 31, 2013

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Huddle exclusive: Conservatives, biz groups' give immigration advice to House – A powerful coalition of conservative and business-oriented groups backing immigration reform are trying to give House Republicans as much help as possible to talk about the controversial issue during the August recess. The American Conservative Union, American Action Forum, Americans for Tax Reform, ImmigrationWorks USA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are sending a packet of messaging points, polling and research to all House GOP offices later today, intending to aid Republican lawmakers in framing immigration as an economic issue and to underscore why the House needs to pass reform. “We hope this will help you to make the case that while the immigration system is broken, Congress is working to fix it,” an attached letter says.”

--One suggested talking point: “With every reform we are going to take away President Obama’s discretion to pick and choose what laws he’s going to enforce.” That gets at the heart of complaints from a wide spectrum of House Republicans, who – especially after the delay of the employer mandate in the health care law – are suspicious of the Obama administration’s willingness to uphold any immigration legislation passed by Congress. Another sample message: “The House is going to act in a conservative way to reform the broken system. We are taking a step-by-step, methodical approach to fix what’s broken. It is nothing like the massive Senate bill.” The packet also contains immigration policy research from the libertarian Cato Institute.

-- But POLITICO’s Anna Palmer reports that outside groups will also target more than 100 House Republicans during the recess in a bid to pressure them to embrace immigration reform. “Their goal: prove that it’s not just Washington insiders who want a comprehensive immigration overhaul, but that conservative voters in their districts support it as well. The unusually coordinated effort to win the recess includes a major grass-tops initiative by pro-reform groups like American Action Network, the Partnership for a New American Economy, Republicans for Immigration Reform and others to connect local business leaders, mayors, pastors and activists with GOP lawmakers on their home turf.”