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Even Right Wing Think Tanks See the Benefits of Comp. Immigration Reform

by: [Matt Jerzyk](#)

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In a new report released yesterday, *Restriction or Legalization? Measuring the Economic Benefits of Immigration Reform*, the right-wing Cato Institute seeks to quantify the benefits that would flow to the U.S. economy from comprehensive immigration reform which grants some form of legal status to undocumented immigrants already living in the United States.

The report constructs seven statistical models to simulate various immigration policy options that run the gamut from enforcement-only strategies along the border and at the workplace, to the legalization of currently unauthorized immigrants and creation of legal channels for future immigrant workers that accommodate actual U.S. labor demand. The report concludes that "compared to either border or interior enforcement, **a policy of legalization would, over time, raise the incomes of U.S. workers and their families.**"

- A program to grant legal status to undocumented workers already in the United States, combined with new channels for the arrival of immigrant workers in the future, would increase the productivity of immigrant workers and create more job openings for American workers in higher-skilled occupations. The net result would be economic gains of roughly \$180 billion over ten years.
- An enforcement-only approach would shrink the overall economy, reducing opportunities for higher-skilled American workers. The net result would be economic losses of roughly \$80 billion over ten years.

Based on recent comments by President Obama and Congressman Langevin, it sounds like the immigration debate will heat up towards the end of this year.

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couched as "comprehensive immigration reform" will be a total failure if it reprises what happened in 1986.

A fairly decent bill put forth by Sen.Simpson(R),Rep.Mazzoli(D),and Rep.Rodino(D),fell into the hands of Kennedy,Panetta,and Schumer among others who screwed it up beyond all reason,making a person here six years ineligible,but making a person here 90 days"working in agriculture"eligible.That term became the focal point of massive fraud. A cottage industry providing "proof"of 7 year residence also sprang up.IOW,the people making counterfeit green card started making rent receipts,bills etc.,

The applicants were shielded by a confidentiality provision that prevented enforcement from being notified if someone didn't qualify due to fraud or criminal background.

I think the same thing will happen again.

Enforcement was never seriously enhanced-oh,yeah it was there on



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