

The Washington Post

Immigration reform: Obama's push, Marco Rubio's gamble and new legislation

By: Allen McDuffee – January 30, 2013

Obama makes his immigration push: President Obama on Tuesday put the weight of his administration behind efforts to pass legislation allowing many of the nation's 11 million illegal immigrants to earn citizenship, seeking to build on a rapidly shifting political consensus around the issue. Obama dedicated the first trip of his second term to calling for an overhaul of immigration laws, making clear that it is one of his top domestic priorities. (Washington Post)

Marco Rubio's big immigration gamble: "Of the octet of members that comprise the "Gang of 8" pushing for a comprehensive immigration reform bill, none has more to gain (or lose) than Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio. Rubio is widely seen as a 2016 Republican presidential candidate and touching immigration, which remains a, well, touchy subject among the GOP rank and file, brings real risk with it." (Washington Post)

A critical moment for immigration reform: "As America seeks to speed up economic growth, immigration reform should be part of its growth agenda. It's welcome news that President Obama announced his support for reform on Tuesday in Las Vegas. Over the past two years, he has issued a series of executive orders overriding existing law, instead of putting his weight behind new legislation," writes Manhattan Institute's Diana Furchtgott-Roth. (Washington Examiner)

Chuck Hagel, a leader on whom we can all rely: "Some people are seeking to block Chuck Hagel's confirmation as defense secretary on the basis that he is out of the mainstream on national security policy and intolerant of gays. These charges don't stand up to either his public record or his personal relationships. As executive vice president of the Atlantic Council, where Hagel is chairman, I have had the privilege to work with the former senator since 2009. In addition to being a centrist policy wonk, I am gay," writes Atlantic Council executive vice president Damon Wilson. (Washington Post)

Room for Debate asks: Much of the controversy over Senator Chuck Hagel's nomination to be secretary of defense involves positions he took in the past — on Israel, on gays in the military, on Iran, on Iraq. But what questions does this former Republican congressman from Nebraska need to be asked about the future direction of the military? (New York Times)

The debt deniers' fantasy: "It's not quite on a par with 9/11 truthers or Obama birthers, but recently a number of liberal commentators have descended into the fever swamps of denialism by rejecting the most basic facts about our debt and deficit. Mind you, they are not arguing about the best policies to reduce the debt — tax hikes vs. spending cuts — but actually denying that the problem exists at all," writes Cato's Michael Tanner. (National Review)

CAP's Anne Johnson: College students in shifting middle. (Politico)

Michigan governor backs off 'unfair' electoral rigging plan: 'I don't think this is the right time.'
(ThinkProgress)

Manhattan Institute's Nicole Gelinas: Michael Bloomberg's end times. (New York Post)

AEI's Jonah Goldberg: Soldier-girl blues. (National Review)