

Cruz team rips 'Schubio' bill ahead of immigration plan rollout

Al Weaver

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Ahead of announcing of his immigration plan, Sen. Ted Cruz's campaign continued to point Sen. Marco Rubio's role in the Gang of Eight immigration bill in 2013.

Cruz's rapid response director Brian Phillips tweeted out continued criticisms of the Schumer-Rubio immigration bill, panning it as the "Schubio" bill. Phillips made the comment in response to Todd Harris, a Rubio adviser, who tweeted out a story from the Cato Institute which calls Cruz's history on the issue "mixed."

The return fire from Cruz's team comes after Rubio said early Friday that he was "puzzled" by the Texas senator's attacks on immigration given that the two are not very "different" on the issue.

"On the immigration front, as I said, I'm puzzled and quite frankly surprised by Ted's attacks, since Ted's position on immigration is not much different than mine," Rubio said during a press avail. "He is a supporter of legalizing people that are in this country illegally. If he's changed that position, then he certainly has a right to change his position on that issue, but he should be clear about that."

Rubio added also that Cruz has "gone much further" in some aspects of immigration reform, particularly that he "wanted to double the number of green cards" and "a 500% increase on the number of H-1B visas."

The comments came mere minutes before Cruz, who sits second in the Washington Examiner's latest power rankings, was set to announce his immigration plan in Florida. They also come soon after Sen. Chuck Schumer said that Rubio's "fingerprints are all over" the comprehensive immigration bill, which Rubio came to denounce months later.