



Republicans Postpone Key US Immigration Vote Till Next Week

Leona Burton

June 25, 2018

That effort fell two votes short as Republican leaders instead brought to the floor legislation that mirrored Trump's priorities on immigration, including using taxpayer funds to build a border wall that the president promised Mexico would pay for.

Last Tuesday, Trump privately told House Republicans that he backed their legislation "1,000 percent" and would protect them during their campaigns, lawmakers said.

Aboard Air Force One on Saturday en route to Las Vegas, Nevada, Trump lashed out at House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of NY, accusing them on Twitter of favoring illegal immigrants over American citizens. This is something some conservative lawmakers have spoke out against, saying those who crossed the border illegally should not be given amnesty.

Both bills had received backing from Trump but were rejected by Democrats and immigration advocacy groups as too harsh.

For the past week, Trump has demanded changes in the nation's immigration laws and encouraged **Congress** to act with urgency.

Protests against the separation of illegal immigrant parents from their children continued on Saturday in Florida, California and Texas.

She called on Democrats to help Trump fix the immigration system - after Trump said Republicans should wait until after November's congressional elections.

Both bills would have addressed the separations but also included funding for the promised border wall and a reduction of legal migration.

This latest GOP melodrama over immigration is a self-inflicted wound, brought about moderate Republicans who wanted to force the House to vote on an issue that has long divided the GOP conference. "Dems are just playing games, have no intention of doing anything to solves this decades old problem". But King believes President Trump's executive order on Wednesday took much of the heat off of Republicans, even though the order allows the administration to continue separating families and does nothing to reunite the thousands already separated. "I would hope that we would look at that bill as the one that we try to move forward on, rather than the compromise bill, which has far less support".

A hard-line measure authored by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte failed to pass on Thursday.

GOP leaders ... are under no impression that they'll be able to secure the 218 votes needed in the next 24 hours to pass the measure, and they only agreed to the postponement under pressure from conservative members who are opposed to the legislation in the first place.

House Speaker Paul Ryan and his leadership team then delayed a vote on a measure worked out with Republican moderates so that it could be modified. "And to those who say, 'But the judges, the judges!' the answer is: Article III institutions are not more important than those of Articles I and II combined". Norcross said it seemed "easier to visit nuclear weapons sites". "We are going to get an immigration agreement done".

McCaul said he learned that out of 12,000 children, 10,000 did not come to the United States with parents, but rather with a "coyote" taking them from Central America through Mexico and to the United States, "a very unsafe journey where they are abused and exploited".

However, studies have shown that undocumented immigrants are less likely to commit a crime in the US than native-born citizens, including one published by the libertarian CATO Institute this year.