

NumbersUSA

The Specter Proposal: Drowning the U.S. Labor Force and Importing Poverty

While the Specter proposal has many strong enforcement provisions, the enforcement benefits would be far outweighed by the proposal's massive increase in immigration and foreign worker importation. Below are the highlights of the proposal's amnesty, guest workers, and legal, permanent immigration provisions.

Green Card Giveaway more than doubles permanent immigration.

The Specter proposal would increase current caps on legal, permanent immigration and it would exempt large groups of aliens from the caps, resulting in a likely doubling of current immigration levels from one million per year to two million per year. The proposal would:

- increase the number of family-based immigrants by over 250,000 by exempting the spouses, children and parents of citizens from the cap,
- more than double the yearly cap on employment-based to 290,000 from 140,000;
- add 200,000 or more extra visas by reissuing visas that were available in prior years; and
- exempt from the caps foreign workers with advanced science degrees or “extraordinary abilities” in certain fields, “outstanding” professors and researchers, certain physicians, and the spouse, children and parents of foreign workers.

New “guest” worker program imports hundreds of thousands.

The Specter proposal would create a new “guest” worker program for mostly unskilled foreign workers. The initial cap on the program would be 400,000 workers each year, with subsequent caps to be determined by U.S. employers’ appetite for cheap labor. The faster U.S. employers imported foreign workers, the more foreign workers they would be allowed to import, regardless of the impact on U.S. wages, working conditions, or quality of life. Any “guest” worker who could find an employer willing to sponsor him or her would be eligible to apply for a green card and stay in the United States permanently.

Amnesty rewards illegal aliens with work permits and citizenship.

The Specter plan would allow all illegal aliens to apply for “guest” worker visas or for permanent, immigrant visas. Illegal aliens who are approved as “guest” workers would not count against the cap on such workers, so the actual number of such workers could be in the millions in the first few years.