



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES  
COUNCIL 119 | AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO



U.S. Citizenship &  
Immigration  
Services

## USCIS UNION PRESIDENT: 1,200-PAGE SUBSTITUTE IMMIGRATION BILL EVEN WORSE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, NATIONAL SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: National Citizenship & Immigration Services Council

**WASHINGTON – Kenneth Palinkas, President of the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council, the union representing 12,000 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) adjudications officers and staff, issued a statement today urging lawmakers to oppose the Corker-Hoeven substitute immigration bill, which was released Friday. Mr. Palinkas' statement follows:**

“The amended 1,200-page Corker-Hoeven immigration bill, if passed, will exacerbate USCIS concerns about threats to national security and public safety. It will further expose the USCIS agency as inept with an already proposed massive increase in case flow that the agency is ill prepared to handle. The bill does not address the needs of the USCIS workforce as it fails to fix the institutional problems in our agency, such as the need for newly hired permanent employees versus term employees to perform the work, and the lack of training and manpower and manageable time to adjudicate for its current staff.

The Corker-Hoeven substitute proposal, like the original proposal, will lead to the rubber stamping of millions of applications for both amnesty and future admissions. In its current draft, any worker in the country on a legal work visa for 10 years can get a green card, even if they overstay their visa. It will allow immigrants to break the law in the future and still be eligible for citizenship, as it absolves prospective behavior, not simply past mistakes. It will do away with the applicability of certain grounds of inadmissibility as contained in the Immigration and Nationality Act. It will wipe away the enforcement process that compels law breakers who overstay their visas to return to their home country and restart the immigration process. This bill rewards immigrants who break the law, more so than the prior bill proposed by the Gang of Eight.

The proposal goes out of its way to provide legalization for criminal offenders while making it more difficult for Adjudications Officers to identify threats to the nation's security in our ongoing war against terrorism. It was deliberately designed to undermine the integrity of our lawful immigration system.

This bill should be opposed and reforms should be offered based on consultation with the USCIS adjudicators who actually have to implement it. Hopefully, lawmakers will read the bill before casting their votes. I say put a cork in it.”

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