

The recent crisis on the Texas border has brought immigration reform onto the forefront of many senators agenda. The top aides for two opposing senators meet to negotiate the structure of a bill to reform US immigration policy. The issues are:

1. Immediate funds to HHS, FEMA, Customs and ICE and other agencies to alleviate the human rights crisis currently at the border. These funds will go to providing healthcare, food, shelter and faster processing of the migrants coming to the border. Cost: \$1 - \$5 Billion;
2. Beefed up border security;
3. Increase the number of people US will allow as asylum seekers (either by increasing the allotted number or adding categories for seeking asylum);
4. Reduce immigration into US based on family ties as this policy has led to the release of many migrants into the US.

40% of unauthorized migrants enter legally into the United States on short term visas and overstay their visa terms. Neither side wants to target these immigrants as they have passed at least some initial screening that reduces terrorist or criminal threat risk.

Senator Recore is from Minnesota, which has a very low migrant population as few immigrants from anywhere are willing to live in perpetual darkness and below freezing temperatures six months out of the year. Nevertheless, spurred by political instability in Somalia over the last 30 years, hundreds of thousands of Somalis fled their country and over 150,000 ended up in the US, the majority in Minnesota. Although both Minnesotans and Somalis had to adjust to cultural differences, for the most part, State agencies, nonprofits and NGOs readily assisted the Somalis to resettle and become assimilated in this country.

Recore is confident that Minnesota's refugee success story with the Somalis, and the Bosnians and Hmong before them, can be replicated at the Southern border.

Senator Recore's interests are:

- (1) Increased funds for humanitarian medical aid, food, and shelter - as well as processing -to place migrants where they can work and establish community ties that will expedite assimilation (essential- \$1-2 Billion)
- (2) Expand the allotted number of refugees the US will admit regardless of asylum status (important-\$2 Billion)
- (3) Increase the number of Immigration Law Judges to process and approve legitimate asylum applications and preclude removal proceedings (desired-\$ 1-2 Billion)

Recore is opposed to any border wall. S/he believes in borders without borders. However, Recore realizes that Senator Z (to whom s/he privately refers as the "winter wiener") must have some funding allocated to this interest to support a joint bill and not alienate his constituency. Recore is willing to divert some funds from item 3 (the judges) for the wall so long as it does not exceed \$1 Billion and

would prefer to cap it at \$500 million. Recore is also against increasing funds for removal proceedings but does not know whether s/he can raise the votes to divert appropriations committee funding for this item despite very public assurances from POTUS and Speaker Pelosi that they will make this happen if Senator Z does not compromise on a Joint Bill.

Recore's BATNA is item 1. If the Joint Bill is not passed, private billionaire donors have assured Recore that they can and will raise funds for the essential humanitarian aid. However, without the governmental infrastructure that the Joint Bill would establish to process refugees, the private donations would be a short-term fix to a problem whereas joint legislation could provide long-term systematic and uniform solution to the crisis. If successful, and named in part after her/him, this legislation could be the crowning point to her/his career in public service.