

## *In search of immigration solutions*

The Washington Post

May 16, 2011 Monday, Regional Edition

Copyright 2011 The Washington Post All Rights Reserved



**Distribution:** Every Zone

**Section:** EDITORIAL COPY; Pg. A16

**Length:** 323 words

### **Body**

---

Regarding the May 12 [editorial "Kick-starting immigration reform"](#):

Instead of recognizing that both sides of the immigration debate have legitimate concerns, The Post suggested only that President Obama "curtail or suspend" some enforcement and expand legal immigration for graduates of PhD programs (a step that will matter little to those already in the United States illegally).

How about a realistic compromise? A plan that includes both (a) a path to legal permanent residency, as well as (b) a permanent prohibition on U.S. citizenship could break the stalemate.

For Republicans, the perceived scofflaws and line-jumpers would not get off scot-free with all of the privileges of citizenship. At the same time, there would be real, compassionate relief for millions of otherwise law-abiding people living in the shadows. Each side would be making concessions while still preserving significant ideological ground.

Legal, permanent residents can live long, happy lives in the United States without becoming citizens. Indeed, many choose this path voluntarily even when eligible for naturalization. It's time for politicians and opinion makers in Washington to think outside the box.

Erik Warga, Washington

I

A more accurate headline for this editorial would have been "Kicking Obama in the shin once again."

The Post acknowledged several times that Republicans have shown zero interest in moving any legislation on immigration reform, either comprehensively or piecemeal.

Yet the thrust of the editorial is that President Obama is at fault - both for not acting unilaterally and for criticizing the GOP for blocking action. Could you not find room for one sentence condemning hard-liners for making a bad situation even worse?

Let's suppose that the president took your advice and shifted his focus even slightly from enforcement.

I can already imagine the GOP attack ads that would flood the airwaves in response.

Steven Alan Honley, Washington

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (91%); CITIZENSHIP (91%); IMMIGRATION LAW (90%); US PRESIDENTS (89%); LEGISLATION (78%); POLITICAL ADVERTISING (78%); NATURALIZATION (78%); EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (50%)

**Industry:** POLITICAL ADVERTISING (78%)

**Person:** BARACK OBAMA (78%)

**Geographic:** UNITED STATES (94%)

**Load-Date:** May 16, 2011