

Bush talks up immigration deal in weekly radio address

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Body

President George W. **Bush** on Saturday praised senators of both parties for delivering a potential **deal** to overhaul U.S. **immigration** policy.

The compromise aims to grant legal status to millions of people now in the country unlawfully, stiffen border security and create a program for temporary workers. It also would reshape requirements for new immigrants and take measures to prevent illegal workers from getting jobs.

"I appreciate the effort of senators who came together to craft this important legislation," **Bush** said in his **weekly radio address**. "This bill brings us closer to an **immigration** system that enforces our laws and upholds the great American tradition of welcoming those who share our values and our love of freedom."

A victory for **Bush** is far from assured.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Saturday she was not pleased with the **immigration** agreement.

Speaking to reporters after giving a commencement **address** at the University of San Francisco, Pelosi, D-Calif., said it would create more restrictive rules on visa eligibility for relatives.

Spouses and minor children of legal residents and citizens could still get green cards, but other relatives would have to qualify under a point system that rewards advanced skills and education.

"A point system for unification undermines our family values that we espouse in our country," said Pelosi.

An unlikely alliance of liberal and conservative lawmakers championed the proposal, which was announced Thursday.

The president used his **radio address** to tout the **deal** and build momentum for it, without expressly lobbying lawmakers to vote for it. For **Bush**, approval of a comprehensive plan would be a signature second-term achievement.

The package faces opposition from both sides. Conservatives say it is too lenient on those who have broken the law; liberals warn it would be unworkable and unfair to migrant families.

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