

## Immigration vote stuns Senate supporters

USA TODAY

June 8, 2007 Friday, CHASE EDITION

Copyright 2007 Gannett Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 13A

**Length:** 418 words

**Byline:** Kathy Kiely

### **Body**

---

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., sat in the back of the Senate wearing the tux he had donned for an evening event where he was the scheduled speaker. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., rubbed fatigue from her eyes.

Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., came to sit by his disappointed father, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., the chief sponsor of the immigration bill, as the Senate blocked it from coming to a vote Thursday night. Another key supporter of the bill, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., refused to speak to reporters.

The breakdown of the immigration legislation, despite the support of the Senate's Democratic and Republican leadership and the White House, left stunned backers of the bill vowing to revive it, but uncertain of how.

"We're not giving up the game," Kennedy told Senate colleagues.

The National Immigration Forum, one of the groups that have lobbied hardest for the immigration bill's passage, called the Senate's 50-45 vote against limiting debate, "a huge disappointment to immigrant communities."

Voting in favor of the immigration bill were 37 Democrats, seven Republicans and one independent. Voting against: 38 Republicans, 11 Democrats, one independent.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, one of the bill's leading opponents, said the vote was a victory for open government.

"I simply do not understand why some of my colleagues want to jam this legislation through," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and other Democrats blamed Republican opponents of the bill for its collapse, even though 11 Democrats also opposed the bill.

"There's lots of support for this bill on the outside," he said. "The problem is inside the Senate chamber."

Opponents of the bill insisted they wanted more time to debate amendments but repeatedly objected Thursday to bringing those amendments up. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said Republican opponents of the immigration bill had "lost credibility."

Sen. Mel Martinez of Florida, who also serves as chairman of the Republican Party, rebuked his fellow party members in a Senate floor speech, saying it is time for them to be "putting forth a proposal" instead of "tearing down one that has been put out there."

Opponents of the bill range from conservative Republicans, who think it is too lenient with immigrants who broke the law, to liberal Democrats who believe it is too harsh.

## Immigration vote stuns Senate supporters

Prospects were uncertain as weary senators left the Capitol. "When you're trying to anchor the center down, it's tough," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

\*Bill suffers setback, 1A

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** NEWSPAPER

**Subject:** US REPUBLICAN PARTY (94%); **IMMIGRATION** (92%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); **IMMIGRATION** REGULATION & POLICY (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (90%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (90%); LEGISLATION (89%); POLITICS (78%); **IMMIGRATION** LAW (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2016 (77%); LIBERALISM (76%); CONSERVATISM (74%)

**Person:** HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (79%); PATRICK J KENNEDY (76%); TED KENNEDY (73%); JIM BUNNING (58%); ARLEN SPECTER (58%); HARRY REID (58%); RON WYDEN (58%); MEL MARTINEZ (58%); JOHN CORNYN (58%); JOHN MCCAIN (58%)

**Geographic:** TEXAS, USA (79%); KENTUCKY, USA (79%); RHODE ISLAND, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** June 8, 2007

---

End of Document