

Immigration Rider Touches Nerve

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Body

Nearly half the members of the Senate yesterday urged congressional negotiators to oppose an **immigration** bill provision allowing states to expel illegal immigrant children from school.

The 47 senators, nearly all Democrats, said that inclusion of the provision could jeopardize enactment of major legislation dealing with illegal **immigration**.

In a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), the senators called the provision ill-advised and said it would do nothing to reduce illegal **immigration**.

Separately, Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) said in letters to Majority Leader Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.) and his deputy and likely successor, Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), that the opposition of the senators and the administration made clear the Senate would not pass a bill with the school provision. The votes of 60 of the 100 senators are needed to cut off a filibuster.

Both the House and Senate have passed bills to clamp down on illegal **immigration** but only the House version would permit expulsion of illegal immigrant children from school. The two bills have to be reconciled by a House-Senate conference committee.

"Aliens do not come to this country illegally to educate their children in U.S. public schools," the 47 senators, led by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), said in the letter to Hatch.

"Giving authority to states to expel children from public schools will not deter illegal **immigration**, but it will lead to a range of other problems if these innocent children are out of school and on the streets."

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