

## **Huckabee Talks Tough on Immigration**

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### **Body**

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#### THE AD

Mike **Huckabee**: It ought to be at least as difficult to get across an international border as it is to get on an airplane in our own home town.

Announcer: Mike **Huckabee** will fight to secure our borders.

**Huckabee**: We need to make it clear that we will say no to amnesty and no to sanctuary cities. Our borders have to be secured -- no amnesty. And our government has failed us. Build a border fence. Secure the border, and do it now.

#### ANALYSIS

**Huckabee**, who has garnered favorable media attention for a compassionate approach to illegal immigrants, is trying to neutralize criticism that he is "soft" on an issue that looms large in the Republican primary.

This ad, airing in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, does not mention that the former Arkansas governor praised President Bush's legislation, which provided a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants. It also ignores his proposal to grant in-state college tuition to some high-achieving students whose parents are in the country illegally, which **Huckabee** recently defended by saying: "We are a better country than to punish children for what their parents did." **Huckabee** also opposed an Arkansas measure to deny public services to illegal immigrants and said last year that some critics of such immigrants are "driven by just sheer racism."

By focusing solely on the border-security part of the debate -- and even omitting his own proposal for making illegal immigrants return to their home countries and reapply for admission -- **Huckabee** is fudging his record and trying to cast himself as what an on-screen graphic calls an "authentic conservative."

A second ad, released yesterday, shows the preacher's softer side, beginning with a picture of **Huckabee** as a young boy. He **talks** about understanding people's needs "when you grow up and life's a struggle" and boasts of providing health coverage to 70,000 uninsured children.

Video of this ad can be found at [www.washingtonpost.com/politics](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics).

## Graphic

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IMAGE

IMAGE

## Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** BORDER CONTROL (99%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (91%); **IMMIGRATION** (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2016 (90%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (78%); CITIZENSHIP (76%); CONSERVATISM (76%); US STATE **IMMIGRATION** LAW (75%); CITIZENSHIP LAW (75%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (74%); LEGISLATION (73%); STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE (72%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (71%); SANCTUARY SITES (71%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (70%); PRIMARY ELECTIONS (69%); TUITION FEES (67%)

**Industry:** NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (76%); UNDERINSURED & UNINSURED PATIENTS (66%); HEALTH INSURANCE (61%)

**Person:** MICHAEL **HUCKABEE** (91%); GEORGE W BUSH (55%)

**Geographic:** ARKANSAS, USA (92%); NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA (79%)

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