

Protesters decry immigrant bill

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Body

About 50 people gathered at the Minnesota state Capitol on Saturday to demonstrate against a proposed amnesty for illegal **immigrants**.

The rally was organized by the Minnesota Coalition for Immigration Reduction, which supports strengthening U.S. borders to keep illegal **immigrants** out.

"What we believe in is that you should come here legally, you should speak the language of the land, which is English, you must abide by the same laws that we abide to, without exhausting the financial assistance programs that are out there," organizer Ruthie Hendrycks said.

The **protesters** carried American flags and signs with messages such as "Boycott businesses that hire illegals" and "Stop the invasion."

Hendrycks said they don't oppose legal immigration but proposals to grant amnesty to illegal **immigrants** already here.

The rally preceded one scheduled for this afternoon that's expected to draw thousands of supporters of **immigrant** rights. Participants will gather at the St. Paul Cathedral and march to the Capitol.

One of the organizers of today's rally, immigration attorney Benjamin Casper, stopped to check out Saturday's event. Although a **bill** before Congress that would offer eventual citizenship to millions of illegal **immigrants** fell victim Friday to internal disputes in both parties, Casper said a consensus is emerging that an amnesty is needed. "It's a humanitarian crisis and it needs to be resolved. ... You can't simplistically ask 11 million people to disappear overnight."

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