

Republican Perspective

6 May 2015

by Ed Manning

Constitutional Transformation

“There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism...The one absolute certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities.”
Teddy Roosevelt, Former President

In November 2014, President Obama issued his executive amnesty that would impact an estimated five million illegal aliens. Under federal law, any non-US citizen is an alien. Aliens who have entered the US without permission, or who have violated the terms of their admission, are identified as illegal aliens. “Undocumented” is a genteel way the Left likes to portray those who have violated US immigration laws.

The President’s action caused leaders from both political parties and legal experts to question its constitutionality. Obama even said numerous times that he did not have constitutional authority to take executive action to change immigration law. His policies were resoundingly rejected by last year’s mid-term but elections don’t matter unless you’re a Republican.

In breathtaking gall, Obama’s defense of his action was that Congress failed to provide him with a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Does this now mean that a President can decree law that is reserved for Congress under the Constitution and separation of powers? The US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has heard arguments from the White House and the 26 states challenging the Executive Order.

The Obama administration has laid out various categories of illegal aliens who will be eligible for deferred action and work authorization, but it has not set any numerical cap on the number of beneficiaries. “Deferred action” is a form of administrative relief from deportation. What impact will this have on American workers and what measures will the administration put in place to protect these workers?

In addition to the five million illegal aliens, Obama created the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans & Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program. This will allow parents of US citizens and green card holders to stay and work.

Robert Rector, Senior Research Fellow with the Heritage Foundation, noted that “nearly all DAPA families have at least one U.S. born child”. Rector found “DAPA-eligible families already receive \$6,600 per year in means-tested aid, or \$13.2 billion per year overall.” Since the executive amnesty makes illegal aliens eligible for Social Security and Medicare benefits — Rector calculates the “lifetime costs” of these programs to DAPA recipients at \$1.3 trillion. Additionally, if enrolled in healthcare under the

Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), "the cost to the taxpayers would be around \$7,300 per DAPA family or \$15.5 billion per year."

While lavishly spending his subjects money, the President has also led the campaign against deportation. As part of his executive amnesty, Obama ended the Secure Communities program that was a common sense approach to illegal alien criminality. Under the 2008 program, whenever an illegal alien is booked on suspicion for a crime, an alert was sent to the Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. ICE could ask the local authority to detain the individual until ICE could start deportation proceedings, if warranted.

Deportation under Obama is a non-starter. The removal rate in 2014 for illegal aliens who were not explicit ICE priorities was one-half of one percent. The administration seems to subscribe to the theory that it is Americans to blame for separating families instead of the illegal alien who violated our laws. Who can forget Bill Clinton and Janet Reno sending armed agents to return a scared 5 year old Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba?

If the US does not deport new illegals, then there is no remedy nor is there a deterrence for illegal entry. This is exactly why Mexico and many other countries practice deportation.

Instead of deporting new illegals, we are importing poverty and severe educational problems with California being the epicenter. Heather MacDonald of the Manhattan Institute writes that California remains near the bottom of the education rankings but has the largest concentration of English language learners in the country. She states that over one-third of California eighth graders possess even the most rudimentary math skills; 28 percent are also deficient in reading.

The Latino out-of-wedlock birth rate in California is 53 percent along with an inordinately high rate of incarceration. Low-skilled immigration is not an economic boom. The Left's green collar job promise is another fiction. US policy should be self-centered toward what is in our economic interest. Legal immigration should focus upon skilled individuals who will not immediately drain our economic safety nets. Republicans are seeking some semblance of border security so comprehensive immigration reform can be intelligently debated.

Note: Republicans please visit the Contra Costa Central Committee's website: www.contracostagop.org to stay current on candidates views and fundraisers.