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## Illegal Immigration

It's estimated that approximately 12 million people from many different countries are currently living illegally in the US. It's also estimated that millions more have already left and are now leaving the US because of the downturn in our economy and the improvement of the economy in Mexico.

I applaud and support what US Senator Marco Rubio from Florida recently said. His parents immigrated to the US from Cuba prior to Castro's takeover of that island nation, just 90 miles off our Florida coast.

He said, "The Republican Party must be the Pro-Legal Immigration Party and not the Anti-Illegal Immigration Party."

I love it that so many millions of immigrants in so many foreign lands recognize that United States of America as a beacon of freedom and a land of opportunity. The US is indeed the greatest nation on the face of the earth and greatest nation the world has ever seen. And we want to continue to encourage good, honest, hard-working people and families from across the earth to immigrate here LEGALLY in order to become an even greater nation.

But we simply can no longer afford to continue to allow illegal immigrants by the millions to cross into our country to obtain free health care, educations and more - paid for by my US taxpayers. Immigrants must pay taxes, too!

To become the Pro-Legal Immigration Party, we must do three things – as recommended by Sen. Rubio:

1. Secure the border and enforce our immigration laws
2. Improve and utilize the e-verify system to ensure US companies hire only legal immigrants
3. Modernize our current immigration system to make it easier and faster for legal immigrants to work and live in the US and become citizens

If your basement is flooding with water, you must first turn off the water rushing in to solve the problem, right? That's why I believe we need to first turn off the illegal immigration before we decide what to do with the illegal immigrants already living in our nation. We need to develop plans and contingencies for both problems.

To close the border, I propose we do a combination of things, all of which have been recommended by various experts:

1) Build a fence where sensible

2) Put more boots on the ground - specifically more border patrol agents and more law enforcement officers on the border.

3) Utilize technology wherever possible

I'm especially enthused about modernizing our current immigration system. Do you realize that to apply to become a US citizen, an applicant must first reside in the US for five years as a legal resident, unless she or he is married to an American, and then it takes three years? That's far too long. Surely we can streamline the process.

Regarding those 12 million or so immigrants who are currently in the US illegally, I do not support Amnesty or the Dream Act, which allows illegals to become citizens if they will serve in the military or graduate from college.

I also do not support providing in-state tuition to illegals or children of illegals in Texas. Once elected, I will vote to change that law, surprisingly first passed without much opposition in Texas in 2001.

If we will shut off the magnets which attract illegals to our country, then illegal immigration will become less and less of a problem.

Possible solutions to suggest:

- Require out-of-state tuition or out-of-country tuition?
- Require students to provide documentation (as in Alabama)?
- Reward legal immigrants with tuition discounts (incentives to immigrate legally)?
- Require law enforcement when they arrest to check legal status?