**Immigration Policy Reform in the National Interest: Recommendations**

**Border Security**

1. Barriers, technology and personnel to secure the physical borders. Allow states to assist.

2. Reform the asylum system: Close loopholes that result in catch and release and incentivize illegal border crossers (including automatic resettlement of unaccompanied minors and automatic release of adults arriving with children); maintain agreements with transit countries to offer asylum; adhere to laws requiring detention and expedited due process and/or removal of illegal border crossers; utilize Migration Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico); clarify grounds for asylum (fear of government persecution).

3. Visa security: Improved, thorough, consistent vetting of applicants; reduce visa overstays; bar terrorists, cartel operatives, gang members, and spies; mend or end visa programs that are vulnerable to exploitation by bad actors (student and exchange program visas, investor visas, post-college training work permits).

**Interior Enforcement**

4. Establish a baseline of enforcement that ICE must meet, with mandatory detention and removal of certain criminal aliens; more tools to expedite processing of routine removals; reduce immigration court backlogs.

5. Encourage cooperation with local law enforcement agencies; penalize sanctuary jurisdictions; require ICE response to local requests for enforcement assistance.

6. Expand worksite enforcement and E-Verify to deter illegal settlement generally and protect jobs for US workers.

7. Address rampant identity theft and prohibit state issuance of driver’s licenses or identity cards to illegal immigrants.

**Legal Immigration and Citizenship**

8. Promote naturalization, English language learning, and assimilation; protect voting rights of citizens by maintaining integrity of voter rolls and reserving suffrage for citizens.

9. Ensure fidelity to the principle of self-sufficiency for immigrants; strengthen public charge rule; prevent unauthorized aliens from accessing welfare benefits.

10. Modernize legal immigration priorities to favor merit, education and skills and nuclear family. Eliminate chain migration categories and visa lottery.

11. Reform humanitarian relief programs to include meaningful coordination with receiving communities, to increase accountability for resettlement NGO contractors, and to prioritize support of international and regional solutions.

12. Avoid amnesty programs before border security and robust enforcement is in place.

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