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Testimony
For the House Judiciary Committee
Oversight Hearing on "The Reid-Kennedy Bill's Amnesty: Impacts on Taxpayers,
Fundamental Fairness
and the Rule of Law."

August 24, 2006
Concord, New Hampshire

Since Independence, one of American's most treasured ideals has been that of equality under the law. In practice we have often failed to achieve that ideal, but the clear trend during two centuries has been of progress toward making the goal a reality. Now comes the US Senate with S.2611, a bill which would reverse our progressive course by rejecting the concept of equality before the law. This would be done in order to create a special class of millions and offer them special treatment and privileges that have never in our history been offered to any single citizen, let alone an immense group of them.

Who are the people the Senate has selected for special privileges? Not combat veterans of our military services; not elderly people who have contributed to our Nation for many decades, not Americans who have made unique contributions in the medicine or science.

The elite chosen by the Senate are illegal aliens. Citizens of other nations who, like thieves in the night, sneaked across our borders illegally. Aliens who obtained visas to visit our country with the stated promise to return home on the expiration of their visas and who, by violating those promises, revealed themselves as liars. The privileged class chosen by the Senate consists entirely of criminals. And not even American criminals, but criminal aliens.

S. 2611 would forgive illegals for their immigration crimes, tax evasion, identity fraud and other crimes, and then goes far beyond that to grant them one of the greatest gifts our government can bestow: citizenship, a benefit that the lawbreakers will in turn be able to pass on to their descendants. Senators object to calling this "amnesty," and on this one point they are correct. A true "amnesty" would merely restore the criminals to the same position they occupied before they committed their crimes: a clean slate and the same right to stand in line with the rest of the world to apply for immigration. However, S2611 rewards the criminal acts of this chosen class of lawbreakers. To conceal the nature of its discriminatory and regressive plan the Senate calls this idea "a path to legalization," but to everyone else it's discrimination; a violation of fundamental fairness.

While lawbreaking aliens will be the beneficiaries of S2611, it is American citizens who will pay all the costs, social and financial.

Tens of thousands of taxpaying American workers in the building trades, hospitality industry, agriculture, service industry, manufacturing, high tech...the full spectrum of this country's

private sector have lost their jobs or have been forced to take lower wages because of illegal aliens who will work for a pittance and live forty and fifty to a house. It is fundamentally unfair to these Americans that their lawbreaking competitors will be rewarded with citizenship; fundamentally unfair to make permanent the conditions that have deprived these American workers of the ability to earn a living wage.

Illegal aliens, violating our criminal laws and motor vehicle laws with the same contempt they show for our immigration laws, have killed or injured many thousands of Americans in street crimes or highway accidents. Since every illegal is by definition a person whose true identity has never been documented, the perpetrators often just disappear. Is it not grossly unfair to these American victims and their families that the illegals who are responsible will be able, simply by adopting a new identity, to take advantage of the "path to citizenship?"

The health care costs of all Americans are inflated because hospitals are overwhelmed with illegals getting "free" health care. Is it not fundamentally unfair to Americans to permanently add perhaps 60 million people who will inevitably increase these costs?

Many Americans who have needed emergency care but have lost access to nearby hospitals which have been forced to close by the cost of caring for illegals who abuse the "free" care offered by emergency rooms. Is it not fundamentally unfair to Americans that the very same people who caused these denials of service will be rewarded with the Senate's "path to citizenship?"

Many Americans of modest means have their entire life earnings invested in their homes and many have seen their homes rendered almost worthless because nearby houses were converted by absentee owners into dormitories for dozens of illegals. Is it not fundamentally unfair to these Americans to reward the illegals (and the landlords) who have robbed them of the work of a lifetime?

The open borders lobby relentlessly speaks of the romantic past. But the world is not the place it was in 1870, 1900. Many, many conditions have changed. Most important among those changes is that our government no longer seems to care who gets into our country. Let me provide a personal perspective on that point.

My father was born in Germany in 1906. He was only part Jewish but that and his family's anti-Nazi activities were sufficient for the Hitler government to target him for death. In 1940 he arrived in the United States officially classified as a "stateless person." However, his status as a refugee was conditional, with permanent status only being granted after a complete investigation. He used to tell me that before he was permitted to remain in the US the FBI "practically looked under the fillings in my teeth to make sure that I wasn't a German agent." Yet, my father said he was pleased that the FBI examined him so closely. "I didn't want German agents in the US anymore than FDR did. I wanted to be safe." My father was proud that he passed the test, and felt safe because he knew his government was carefully screening every person who wanted to immigrate to this wonderful country.

How sadly ironic is it that his grandson, my son, was murdered on 9/11/2001 because the government of the United States had abandoned the practice of carefully examining those who wish to come to our country, and S.2611 will result in many more millions of criminal aliens from all parts of the earth winning the right to stay in the USA without any effective investigation of their possible violent or terrorist backgrounds.

And this is the worst all the many crimes against fundamental fairness that S.2611 will produce: it will make our Nation even more vulnerable to attack by hostile foreign powers infiltrating agents into the USA as "ordinary" illegal aliens.

I implore members of this Committee to remember that it was negligence on the part of US government officials that allowed the terrorists of 9/11 and tens of thousands of "ordinary" street criminals to destroy the lives of innocent Americans. S.2611 will perpetuate this madness.

Amnesty for illegals means Americans will die.

It is up to the Members of this House to save Americans from this assault by a Senate that is deaf to the wishes of the vast majority of our citizens.