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Week Ending Friday, May 18, 2007

The President's Radio Address

May 12, 2007

Good morning. Next week, the Senate will take up an important priority for our Nation, comprehensive immigration reform.

Over the past few weeks, leaders from both parties have met at the White House and on Capitol Hill to find areas of agreement and iron out our differences. These meetings have been productive. We've been addressing our differences in good faith, and we're building consensus. Both Republicans and Democrats understand that successful immigration reform must be bipartisan.

Democrats and Republicans agree that our current immigration system is in need of reform. We agree that we need a system where our laws are respected. We agree that we need a system that meets the legitimate needs of workers and employers. And we agree that we need a system that treats people with dignity and helps newcomers assimilate into our society.

We must address all elements of this problem together, or none of them will be solved at all. We must not repeat the mistakes that caused previous efforts at immigration reform to fail. So I support a comprehensive immigration reform bill that accomplishes five clear objectives.

First, America must continue our efforts to improve security at our borders. Second, we must hold employers to account for the workers they hire by providing better tools for them to verify documents and work eligibility. Third, we must create a temporary-worker program that takes pressure off the border by providing foreign workers a legal and orderly way to enter our country to fill jobs that Americans are not doing. Fourth, we must resolve the status of millions of illegal immigrants who are here already, without amnesty and without animosity. Finally, we must honor the great American tradition of the melting pot.

Americans are bound together by our shared ideals, an appreciation of our history, and an ability to speak and write the English language. And the success of our country depends upon helping newcomers assimilate into our society and embrace our common identity as Americans.

Coming together on a good bill that includes all five elements, we will make America more secure; we will make our economy more competitive; and we will show the world that America can be a lawful society and a welcoming society at the same time.

Reforming our immigration system is an important opportunity to show that elected officials in Washington can work together to find practical solutions to the problems that matter most. I thank the Senators who have been working hard on this issue. I am optimistic we can pass a comprehensive immigration bill and get this problem solved for the American people this year.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on May 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at America's 400th Anniversary Celebration in Williamsburg, Virginia

May 13, 2007

Thank you all. Thank you, Justice O'Connor. Laura and I are really happy to join you today. This State is known as the "Mother of Presidents," which reminds me, I needed to call my mother today. [*Laughter*] I wish all mothers around our country a happy Mother's Day. And if you haven't called your