

Now, not every city has a flood problem; although, certainly, in the great Midwest, you see this in all of the cities along the Missouri and the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. So, in that entire huge basin, which is more than 60 percent of the United States, there are serious flood issues. This extends—and certainly we see it on the east coast—to Superstorm Sandy, and you mentioned Katrina. All across this Nation the issue of flood protection is critical.

In my own district, Sacramento, there is a portion of Sacramento that, I think, is now rated as the most dangerous city in the United States. It is the Natomas area of Sacramento. With the rebuilding of the levees in New Orleans, I think now Natomas, Sacramento, is rated as the most dangerous. We are talking about a flood situation that could occur, because the levees are substandard, in which the river would break. We have floods in the winter, so the water temperatures are in the 45- to 50-degree temperatures. If that were to break, the inundation would be immediate, and it would be 20 feet. The survival time is measured in minutes, not in hours. When that water hits you, you get hypothermia and you're dead.

So it is an extreme problem. We need to rebuild those levees. The community is taxing itself to a fare-thee-well to do it, but the Federal Government is backing away from its previous commitment. The rest of the story is that the economic development potential in that community is stifled. It's not just housing. It's all kinds of economic development, as the Sacramento International Airport is in that area.

With the lack of money to build the levees, human life is at risk—several tens of thousands of people—and economic development. So these things come together—infrastructure being the foundation upon which the economy grows and, in some cases, certainly in the case of levees, upon which people's lives depend.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. You make an important point about neglect of that infrastructure, not only with levees and with waterways, but you and I are both aware, as is the country, of the tragic examples over the last several years—in Minnesota, for example, in the bridge collapse, and more recently in Washington, I believe, in that bridge collapse. Those are lessons to this Congress that we cannot neglect our infrastructure. It is vital. I mentioned Texas. By that same report that Congressman DELANEY mentioned, we have about 1,300 bridges that have been declared functionally obsolete. That's 1,300 functionally obsolete bridges in Texas. That's one in six. So those are things that we've got to attend to here.

It also begs the point: whether it's building out the infrastructure of transportation or building out the infrastructure of opportunity, that doesn't happen by itself. It doesn't happen by accident. It doesn't happen by luck. The United States Government

and the Congress must make those smart investments. We must continue to make those investments if we are going to be the land of opportunity not just 5 years from now or 20 years from now but 50 and 100 years from now.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I think it's about time for us to wrap up, but I want to engage the public. I don't know how many people are watching C-SPAN this evening. I would like to think there are some 300 million, but I suspect that's overstating it a ways.

I would ask the public to comment to you and me about their infrastructure in their communities. What do they need in their communities? How do they think it could be financed? As to Mr. DELANEY's proposal for an infrastructure bank based upon the repatriation of foreign earnings, does that make sense?

□ 2115

Does it make sense to do what the President said, which is to appropriate \$50 billion right now to build infrastructure? There are many different alternatives.

But I'd love to hear from the public, and here's how they can do it. I'm going to use yours down here too. Stay in touch, stay informed, stay connected. You can go to Facebook.com/RepGaramendi or RepCastro. Either way, RepGaramendi, RepCastro. Twitter: Twitter.com/RepGaramendi or RepCastro. Or you can go to our Web site, Garamendi.house.gov.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Well, my Twitter, the House one, that's right. It should probably be JCastro.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I think there's more than one Castro. There's only one Garamendi around. So probably JCastro.house.gov. That's the Web site, and they can get in touch that way and keep informed.

So I welcome people. If anybody out there is watching this discussion about infrastructure, how it can be financed, why it's important, what it means for economic development, education, what it means for social justice and opportunity—if you like the theme, the infrastructure of opportunity, you can contact me and I'll pass it on to Mr. CASTRO, or you can go directly to JCastro@house.gov or Facebook.com/RepGaramendi, RepCastro.

I want to thank you, Mr. CASTRO and Mr. DELANEY, for joining me this evening.

Next week we'll take up one of the other issues that we have. We'll probably talk next week about energy and how we can improve the energy situation to meet the climate change.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Mr. GARAMENDI. I do have one more thing that I really must do before I close down, and that is talk about geothermal energy and one of the communities I represent, Lake County.

We have a critical natural resource opportunity in this Nation, and it's beneath the soil, beneath the ground. It happens to be the heat of the Earth. It

finds its way to the surface in many places around the world, and it certainly does in my district in Lake County.

That heat comes from the geothermal, and it is an extraordinary natural resource and it is clean energy. It's one of the most abundant natural resources that can be found anywhere, and it's often overlooked. It has the ability to become one of the key future sources of energy. We'll talk about it much more next week.

But I do want to talk about its use here in the United States. It is environmentally friendly. Dry steam and flash geothermal plants emit just 5 percent of the carbon dioxide and less than 1 percent of the nitrous oxide of traditional fossil fuel coal-powered plants. The binary geothermal installation emissions are near zero. More importantly, geothermal energy is cost effective.

Over the last two decades, the cost of generating geothermal power has decreased by 25 percent. Additionally, geothermal can be produced domestically. In California, the Imperial Valley, the Lake County area, are two of the most used geothermal resources. Nevada has enormous resources, and there are many other places within the United States. And it can be sent—the same resource is available in many parts of the world. So we as a world and certainly as a State and Nation ought to be moving more aggressively to harness our geothermal resources.

It's also a good jobs place, creating more than \$117 million in annual wealth in the geothermal region of Sonoma, Mendocino, and Lake Counties.

It's also a tax source. Lake County and Samoa County receive over \$11 million in annual tax revenues directly from the geyser's geothermal field. And Lake County has saved millions of dollars in the disposal cost by funneling 8 million gallons of wastewater back into the ground for the harnessing of geothermal resources.

So I draw the attention tonight of the Nation to the potential of geothermal and the success that it's had in my district in Lake County and in my neighboring county of Sonoma.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we want to have a conversation about immigration and immigration reform because we recognize that in 1986, when Congress and the President came together for immigration reform, it didn't work. It didn't work for immigrants; it didn't work for our border; and it didn't work for America. Just recently, we've seen that our Senate

has come forward with proposed legislation, and that too doesn't work. It's a proposal that doesn't secure our border. It's a proposal that won't work long term for America.

We're here to address the problems that we face in this country with real solutions that work for people and work for our country. We're here to say that we're with you. If you want to work hard and you want to contribute to our American economy, we're with you. If you want to obey our laws and if you want a shot at our free enterprise system, we're with you. If you believe that America has a right to secure her borders, to know who's coming in and out of our country, we're with you. If you want to pay taxes and pledge allegiance to America, we're with you. And if you want your shot at the American Dream, we're with you.

We're a party that looks at the big problems in our country, and we come out with big solutions to fix those problems. We're not a party of "no." We are a party of solutions. That's why I'm honored to be here tonight with a few of my fellow colleagues to talk about the solutions in regard to immigration, solutions that are going to work. And that's why I'm honored right now to yield to the gentleman from Illinois for his thoughts on immigration.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for organizing the time and bringing us all together. This is an important discussion.

When I think back to somebody who's a big hero of mine, Ronald Reagan, I think back to the eighties, of course, and I think of what Ronald Reagan talked about. He discussed America as a shining city on a hill, a city that everybody around the globe looks at and says "I want to live there." Or they look at the United States and say, "that is a country that I want my country to look like." That's frankly the Republican Party.

And I understand that over the last few years, the Republican Party hasn't necessarily done a great job of messaging that. That's our fault. But I look at somebody like Ronald Reagan, and I look at the vision he has put out for America and I say, You know what? That is the Republican party that I joined. That's the Republican party that I believe in, the party that believes that a kid in the inner city of Chicago should have the same opportunity as a kid raised in the best suburbs of Chicago. That's what we believe.

So when we talk about this really controversial issue of immigration—you have Americans on both sides of the issue, and Americans that have gotten ginned up on either side of this issue that are speaking to this with anger—I think something we have to do as a Nation and something that I think we need to do here right now is to say, Let's have this conversation about immigration, but let's do it in a way where we can discuss what Amer-

ica wants to be and what America is about and how to give most people around the world the opportunity to be in America.

I think most Americans would agree that the first thing we have to do is ensure that we have a safe border, not only just because of the idea of immigration and ensuring that we have a system that works for everybody, but because—look, on a porous border you have an opportunity for terrorists to come through with weapons that we don't want in the United States of America. We've seen in our schools—I visited a place called Rosecrance the other day in Rockford, Illinois, that has teenagers that are suffering from drug addiction. Do you know what the cheapest drug they can get a hold of is now? You'd think maybe marijuana, right? It's actually heroin. Do you know where most of the heroin is coming through? It's coming through the border of Mexico.

So I think when we talk about border security, we're not talking about it in an angry way. We're just saying as a sovereign Nation, we have a right to determine our immigration policy, and you can't determine immigration policy with a porous border. Once we do that, once we have honest border security and we're honest with the American people, then we have to have this discussion about how do we passionately and compassionately deal with folks that want the American way, as well.

That's a conversation I'm looking forward to having tonight over the next few minutes. And as we move on, I'd like to yield to the gentleman from Colorado, a great Member of Congress, Mr. CORY GARDNER.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, we're all together on the same issue tonight on the House floor as we discuss the important issue of immigration reform. Many of us elected in 2010 and elected in 2012, we came to Congress because we wanted to find ways to make America work, to get this country working again, to find ways to get government out of the way and create an economy that's strong and growing so people can find the jobs that they want to help feed their families, to send their kids to school without putting themselves into bankruptcy, and to make sure that we do indeed have a better tomorrow than we do today.

So it is starting with those fundamental beliefs that we all came here to achieve, to build a stronger country, to make life work for the American families, that we recognize a Nation of immigrants, a Nation that provides an opportunity for people around the world, that beacon of hope to be a place for families to succeed, to achieve their dreams about the American Dream and indeed the American spirit.

So it is through those very values of compassion for the poor, compassion for people who want to build a stronger

Nation here at home, and the fairness that we know we can do it with to build a system of laws that will stand strong not just for 1 year or 10 years or 20 years, but moving forward beyond that, a system of laws that we know will make sure that people who want to be a great part of a healthy American economy indeed have that very opportunity.

Tonight, as we kick off a discussion on immigration and we join people around the country who have differing opinions, as the gentleman from Illinois recognized, differing opinions on what to do, how to do it, when to do it, recognizing, though, that indeed we must do something to address a system that is broken in a way that meets those objectives of American values: compassion, fairness, and maintaining the rule of law in this country.

I look forward to our conversation tonight, and I look forward to solutions for the American people that we can all be proud of, knowing that this is not going to be an easy task, but one that we will address with all due and necessary urgency.

We are joined tonight by our colleague from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. I thank my colleague, Mr. Speaker. It's an honor to be here tonight.

I'm a new Member of Congress. I was elected just last year. I ran for Congress the first time I had ever run for office because I want to come up here and fight for people, because there are folks back home that are frustrated, they feel like their government is not being responsive to their needs. So I'm here to represent them and be a voice for those people.

I think of the homebuilder in Monroe, North Carolina, who told me he's just struggling to keep his head above water and he'll take any kind of work just to keep his crew intact so he can keep them together. He'll do remodeling work or anything. He's not even worried about profit so much as being able to keep afloat.

I think about the families across the Eighth District of North Carolina who are looking to us for solutions. That's why I'm here tonight to join this conversation, to talk about immigration reform. The key to immigration reform, as far as I'm concerned is, we've got to look at compassion and we've got to look at fairness.

When it comes to fairness, we are a Nation of immigrants, but we're also a Nation of laws. So we've got to make sure we're enforcing the law in this country and we're respecting the rule of law when we're looking at making changes to immigration policy.

We also need to look with compassion on those who have come here to the United States seeking that American Dream when we try to determine what we're going to do going down the road.

But I think the key to this is the approach we're taking here in the House

of Representatives. The Senate has passed an immigration bill. It's a bill that was cobbled together behind closed doors. It was a bill that in my opinion went too far too fast. We're taking a much more thoughtful approach here in the House. We're going to go through the committee process. We're going to bring legislation to the floor so that we can debate these key issues affecting immigration as single issues and let the American people take part in this conversation and tell us what they think about issues like border security.

Now, the key to immigration reform in my opinion is we've got to secure the borders first, and any legislation that we pass out of this Chamber, any agreement we make with the Senate on immigration, we've got to have a trigger so that no other pieces of this immigration puzzle fall into place until we've got that border secure. So we're going to work hard to make sure that's part of our solution.

There are actually five pieces of legislation that have already passed out of the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. I serve on the Homeland Security Committee. We passed the Border Security Results Act of 2013.

□ 2130

What this does is it requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy to secure the border. What a radical concept: let's actually have a plan. And so what we're saying in the House is: give us a plan. We want the Department of Homeland Security to work with the border sheriffs to come up with a plan to secure that border and come back to Congress and say, here's what we need. Here's the sections where we need fences. Here's the other types of technology, whether it be drones or other types of technological monitoring. These are the pieces of the puzzle we need to secure the border.

And a key to this is we have to have a metrics so we can measure whether the border is secure or not. Currently, we know the numerator, but we don't know the denominator. We know how many folks we're stopping coming across the border, but we don't know how many we aren't rounding up. And if you talk to any of the border sheriffs, you'll know that we're not anywhere close to being secure. So that's a key component of this legislation.

I look forward to talking more about some of the legislation that came out of the Judiciary Committee, some of the pieces of this immigration reform puzzle that we need to discuss.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I thank the gentleman for your statements and everybody here for your statements. I am a member of the International Guard. Just 2½ months ago, I actually did missions on the border between Mexico and Texas. I fly a reconnaissance airplane, and the goal was to look for folks who had crossed illegally. In most cases, we were looking

60 miles into Texas. We were finding dozens of people. Each time we would look somewhere, we'd catch 60 to 100 a night.

I felt bad for the folks who were hunkered down, who had crossed the border that were told by some coyote that they paid their entire life's saving to, told by some coyote that ushered them over that once you step foot in America, you'll be just fine. And then they realize that the journey actually begins. What you'd see in many cases was the Border Patrol, who do very tough, hard work, would apprehend most of these folks. In some cases, a couple of them would scatter, and they'd be left alone. They'd be left 15 miles away from the nearest town, with no water, with no food, and with no idea where to go.

I think of that, and I think of the administration saying the border is already secure. I think what that leads to is there is an epic lack of trust in Washington right now. That's why actually the four of us came to Washington, because we recognize there's a huge lack of trust in D.C.

So this idea that we're going to say from on high in Washington, we're going to just deem the border secure at some point, when the administration has already deemed it secure, is I think where the lack of trust is and why there's so much emotion tied into this. I think this is a beginning step in having a great discussion about how to actually tackle this problem in a way that both sides can agree with and that is fair to the American people and to folks who want to live the American life.

Mr. DUFFY. It is that very point. It is that lack of trust with the American people and Washington, D.C. That's why we want to go through a step-by-step approach, analyzing immigration and immigration reform.

The gentleman from North Carolina said we're here to fight for people. We're here to fix a broken system, and we're here to make it work. We want to have a reform bill that is going to actually be fair—be fair to those who have come to participate in our economy, but be fair to people who are Americans that say we are a country of laws, and we also are a country of immigrants.

I think the key first step is border security. We have to debate, negotiate, discuss what does border security mean. Once we agree on what border security is, and once we secure the border, we can go to the next phase, which is to say we have millions of people who have come into our country, what's the fair way to treat them. In my opinion, and I am open to hearing feedback from all kinds of people as we have this conversation and debate, I haven't dug my heels in. But, number one, we have to say, do you get to go to the head of the line and become a U.S. citizen when you've come here without documentation? I don't know that that's the first step after border secu-

rity. But what I do think we have to say is if you've come here and you've participated in our economy, we can offer some kind of legal status, a legal status that isn't citizenship, but it's a legal status that says we're not going to arrest you in the middle of the night. We're not going to separate you from your grandparents or your kids. You can stay in our country because the border is secure. We're not going to have to address this problem 10 years from now or 20 years from now or 25 years from now. We've addressed the border, which means that we've addressed the inflow of people coming to our country illegally.

When that happens, we can offer those without documentation a status that says you can stay here and you can work; but if you want to become a citizen, you're going to have to get to the back of the line. You don't get a special pathway into the front of the line. You can go to the back and you can become a citizen, but you can stay here legally. And by staying here legally, you can pay your taxes, but that doesn't mean you can vote. And it also doesn't mean that you can collect off the entitlement system that we have here in America.

I think as we have that conversation with those who are here without documentation and those who care about the laws in America, we can have a conversation that actually works for everybody and everybody can agree to. I look forward to that conversation, on finding a pathway and a consensus forward that works for everybody.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. The gentleman from Wisconsin brought up a great point, and that is the issue of a step-by-step process. That is exactly what the House is undertaking. There are at least four bills right now that are working their way through the Judiciary Committee, dealing with everything from an E-Verify system that can actually work and be used by employers around this country to know that they are hiring people who are legally eligible for employment in this country. But we also have the opportunity to address one of the other concerns that I hear at town meetings and in private conversations in grocery stores across my district, and that's so many people who say, Do we need to do anything other than just enforcing existing laws? Do we really need new laws?

We have to give serious consideration to that question because the answer is, yes, we do need immigration reform. Because of the 11 million people in this country who we believe are undocumented today, 42 percent of them are here, they came here legally, entered the country legally, but overstayed their visa. So how do we reform the visa system to actually make it work so we know the integrity of the process is what it needs to be?

How do we create a system for those in agriculture to know that they have

a workforce that is readily available to harvest that fall's crops? Or if you're a dairy farmer, there's no one season for a dairy farmer, it's year round, so the availability of a workforce with the skills that they need, but the certainty that they need. It's those laws that we have to reform to enforce and rebuild the trust of the American people in a step-by-step process. Because if we do this, we can actually create a system of laws that avoids the mistakes of the 1986 law through enforcement first, border security first, and making sure then that we deal with the situation at hand and the people who do want to be a part of a healthy American economy.

Mr. HUDSON. I appreciate my colleague pointing out some of the legislation that the Judiciary Committee has already passed because I think it is important to understand that the House of Representatives is taking a different approach when it comes to immigration reform. So we passed the Border Security Results Act out of Homeland Security. We have also passed the Legal Workforce Act, which is the bill that reforms the E-Verify system, which gives us a much more workable E-Verify program, that gives our employers the certainty and the assurance that they can verify the citizenship of potential employees.

The second piece of legislation that came out of the Judiciary Committee already is the Skills Visa Act. This has to do with what's called the H-1B visas. These are for your high-skilled workers. These are for folks in math, science, and technology who may come to the United States to go to university to learn these skills and get on this career path, but then they don't have a visa to stay here. Most industrialized nations in the world, 80 percent of the visas they give out are based on work skills and needs of the workforce. Here in the United States, it's about 12 percent of the visas we give out. We have a lottery to give out visas; and to me, that's ridiculous. We need to reform the system so we're giving out visas to the type of people that we want to attract to this country. So the Skills Visa Act is legislation we're considering here in the House that will do that.

The third piece of legislation is called the SAFE Act. One of the issues we've talked about, we have to enforce the rule of law. Frankly, we don't have enough Federal agents enforcing the law. So what we need to do is empower States and municipalities, local governments that want to enforce the immigration law to be able to do that. That's what the SAFE Act does.

And then the fourth piece is the agriculture guest worker, AG Act. That is a critical piece for our economy. There are at least 11 million undocumented workers here in this country that we know of. Many of those folks don't want citizenship. What they want is the ability to work here legally. If we have an ag worker program that actually works, this is the H-2A program.

Frankly, when I'm home, and I go home every weekend and meet with our local folks and I see farmers across our my district, I ask them, How many of you are using H-2A program? You'd be amazed how few use the program, because it's not workable.

And so as my colleague from Colorado asked the question that he hears at town hall meetings, Do we really need to do immigration reform, yes, we do. We can't just secure the border with a fence and technology if we still have that attraction, that need for illegal workers to fill jobs in this country. We've got to have a pathway to bring in legal workers, whether it's in agriculture or home-building, or some of the more high-skilled types of jobs. We need a legal pathway to fill those positions; otherwise there's going to be this tug of illegals that will continue to happen.

So we can build a 10-foot wall, but someone is going to invent an 11-foot ladder. So it has to be a comprehensive approach. That's why we need the ag guest worker program, as well. So as you can see, we in the House are looking at this step by step. We are looking at what are the actual problems so we can address them in a very thoughtful way so that we aren't just rushing to get a big bill, as was once said by a former Speaker of this House, Let's pass this bill so we know what's in it. Well, we don't want to make that mistake again. We don't need a big, huge, comprehensive bill. We need to look at these issues in a very thoughtful, comprehensive way.

Mr. DUFFY. I appreciate the gentleman from North Carolina's comments. And you look around at immigrants that come to America, why do they come? They've come for the American Dream. They've come for a better life for themselves. They've come for a better life for their children. They've come to the land of opportunity because they want that opportunity. They want to work hard.

I'm from Wisconsin. Many people may not want to recognize this, but if you look at our dairy farms around Wisconsin, there are a lot of immigrants who have come here without documentation that work on our farms. And it's hard, tough work; and they do it because they want an opportunity.

I travel around and do a lot of town halls, and I know my colleagues do town halls and coffees. I would ask the gentlemen from Colorado and Illinois what you guys hear in your town halls, what people think about immigration and the problems and the solutions you face in your communities.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin. The conversations I hear are from all angles. So whether it's from somebody whose family came here when they were very young—I know of an instance of a young woman who came into this country with her family when she was a baby. She has gone to school in the

same class, same school system for 12 years, eventually graduating as a senior, number one in her class. She was brought here as a child. When she asked me about what we were going to do, I said, Your situation is an example of why we need immigration reform, so have secure borders and we know the laws are being enforced and to avoid putting you in this situation.

Years later, that conversation is repeating. We don't have the reform yet, and we are still looking for that reform. And how many years have to go by before we can actually say we have secured the border, we are enforcing the law? And we know in 10, 20, 30 years, the visa program is solved, the E-Verify system is working. That labor needs, whether it is housing construction, agriculture, are being met in a system that encourages compliance with the law as part of a healthy American economy instead of an underground or a way that does it in a law-breaking fashion.

I will tell you one other story. There's a doctor in the eastern plains of Colorado who was here with all of his proper documentation. Unfortunately, his mother was ill and he needed to leave the country or was hoping to leave the country to say good-bye to her. But under our system of laws, if he left this Nation, he couldn't come back. The only doctor in the county, but he couldn't go away to say good-bye to his mom because he couldn't return. We need some common sense.

Mr. DUFFY. That's a powerful story.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. That's a great story. I just had a town hall meeting in Rockford, Illinois, yesterday. You get folks from all ends of the political spectrum. That is the great thing about our democracy is we can have that respectful conversation.

You have everything from folks who say, Look, all you have to do is enforce existing laws, put more people on the border. Then you have a lot of people who say, Hey, we need to not have any more border enforcement and just allow everybody here to become U.S. citizens.

I think the answer is, frankly, in the middle of that. When you talk to folks, and it doesn't matter if they're on the right or left or somewhere in between, everybody has a heart. Everybody cares about people. And when you talk about the fact, as Mr. GARDNER mentioned, there are people here who are 5 years old, through no fault of their own, sometimes 12 years old, or now they're getting ready to go to college and they realize they're not here legally, this is something we ought to have a lot of compassion for and understand.

□ 2145

And I think we've got to take some of the anger out of it on all sides of the aisle and just have a grown-up discussion and say, What do we have to do to fix the problem here? What do we have to do to fix the issue? Because, frankly,

I don't know how long I'll be in politics, but I don't ever want to have to address this again. And I think that's the thing. And that's what I hear at my town hall meetings is, you know, when you really get past kind of the initial arguments, folks say, We just really don't trust Washington, but, unfortunately, you're the ones that have to solve this problem.

Mr. DUFFY. And I hear similar things, and that's why people say, Take it slow. Talk about it. Talk to us.

Let's do what's right. Let's do what works for the very people that you talked about. Some call them the Dreamers, people who are here at 17 years old or 14 years old and know no other country, but they're here. They're part of our communities, our society, and our schools. Let's do what's right by them, but also let's do what's right for our next generation by securing this border.

I want to talk about just one story. I have a good friend back in Ashland, Wisconsin. He came here legally, but it goes to the work ethic of those who come for opportunity and the American Dream.

It's Bah Lee. He owns a nail shop in Ashland, Wisconsin, and he was raised in an orphanage in Vietnam. And the sister nuns, as he tells the story, saved money in the orphanage and they sent him to America. And he couldn't speak the language, and I think he was in Texas where he got a job in a fast-food restaurant.

And from fast-food, he got a job as a painter. And all the painters got mad at him because he was such a fast painter and they were, like, Slow down. You're making us all look bad. He said, No, I'm here to paint. In very short order he was the highest-paid painter; doesn't speak the language very well, from Vietnam, but man, could he paint.

He saved money, sent money back to the sister nuns in Vietnam to help the orphanage but saved money himself, and he opened up a nail salon. And after that nail salon, another nail salon, and he sold them and he built them and he sold them.

Eventually, he said, I don't like the hot weather anymore, so he moved up to northern Wisconsin, where he bought a building on Main Street, Ashland; right? And he opened up California Nails.

And during the day, Lee does nails, and at night—it's an old 1900 building. It was barren up there. He built five apartments, by himself, at night, in the upstairs of his office building. And then in the downstairs, which was not the nicest location and smelled, he ripped it out and built new apartments downstairs.

But a guy that worked all day and all night for his shot at the American Dream, helping his people back at home, but helping our community, showing what immigrants do to make America better. And it's that story, which is the American story, that I'm

fighting for, to have a system that actually works for people who are here legally and people who want a shot at what we have to offer.

And with that, I yield back to the gentleman from North Carolina for his comments on what he hears in his town halls on where we need to go with regard to immigration reform.

Mr. HUDSON. I appreciate that. And I think it's many of the same things.

First of all, people don't trust Washington to actually address this problem. We've got a pretty bad track record here in the Congress.

I think the other thing, though, I hear from my farmers, from my home-builders, that they need labor, and we've got to have a legal pathway to get that done. And so we've just got to do it in a way that's fair and respects the rule of law.

If any of you would like to close, I believe we're getting near the end of our time.

Mr. DUFFY. For a few more moments, I'm going to yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Well, thank you. And as we do wrap up our time, I just want to say thank you to those paying attention today and to my fellow Members here.

This is an important issue. This is the very beginning of a long discussion that we need to have because this is too important to get wrong. This is too important to rush, because America's the greatest country in the world and this is something we ought not ever forget. And in the process of doing that, we ought to remember that we're an America that many of us come from immigrants and an America that, frankly, is proud of where we've come from.

So with that, I want to thank the fellow Members of Congress here with me to talk about this. And this is the very beginning of, I'm sure, a long discussion about where we go from here.

Mr. DUFFY. I know our time is short, and I appreciate the discussion, and I'm about to yield back to the Speaker. And we may have a few more minutes we can actually continue this discussion tonight, but my time is done.

I yield back the balance of my time.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) for 10 minutes.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the gentleman, the Speaker, for the additional time to continue this conversation, and thank you as well to Members for this opportunity to discuss what is truly one of the biggest issues this Congress, this Nation faces.

I recently was talking to a reporter back home about the immigration debate taking place. They were asking about the Senate bill, asking about

what the House was doing. And they said, Well, aren't you acting with speed? Do you feel no urgency?

And my response was, Don't mistake the issue of speed with urgency, because I think the House feels every bit as urgent as this issue truly is and truly deserves the attention of how urgent the matter is before all of us. But because of that, because of the urgency to do it right, it is going to take time, a deliberative process through this body to make sure that we create that step-by-step opportunity for the people who are here legally, for people who want to come into this Nation legally, to create the border security, the border enforcement, and then to have answers for every person in this Nation. And so as we create this process, this debate, as it moves forward, every bit as urgent as any other American before us, any other person who's desiring to be a part of this country, the urgency that we all feel to make sure that this happens.

And so to the gentleman from Illinois or Wisconsin or North Carolina, thank you.

I yield to anyone who wishes to continue tonight.

Mr. HUDSON. Well, I'm happy to jump in. I thank my colleague from Colorado for giving us this opportunity.

I think the problem is just the general distrust in the way Washington does things, and you only have to look at the process we just went through to understand why; because any problem that we ever face as a Nation, Congress can solve it by very quickly passing a big piece of legislation with a great title and saying the problem is solved.

Unfortunately, in 1986, when we passed immigration reform it didn't solve the problem. It gave amnesty now with a promise of border security later that we never saw, and I believe that's the same thing that happened with the Senate bill. We very quickly put out a bill that has a great title, thousands of pages that I doubt many folks have even read, and saying the problem is now solved.

And then you immediately hear the pundits and the folks who talk on TV about what happens in Washington saying, Well, the House, since you aren't quickly moving a huge bill with a nice title, you don't care. But the truth is we do care, but we're here to represent the people of the United States of America that sent us here, and we're going to do this in a very thoughtful way, and we're going to do immigration reform the right way so that we don't have to do it again in another 20 years.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. The big picture of this is we're getting into a lot of the details we need to. But I want to just, as I give my last statement of the night, I just want to say this.

You know, America is the land of opportunity. America is growing at less, frankly, organically, with folks just