



NEWS RELEASE

Congressman Walter B. Jones

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JONES LEERY OF ANY IMMIGRATION REFORM THAT INCLUDES AMNESTY

“At a time when we must all be vigilant in protecting the security of our nation, Americans are looking for real immigration reform. Sadly, I believe the reform offered today by the President is a step in the wrong direction.”

Washington, D.C.- Third District Representative Walter B. Jones today responded to President George W. Bush’s new plan for immigration reform. Bush’s new "temporary worker program" would permit any of the estimated 8 million illegal immigrants already in the United States or anyone abroad to apply for the right to work legally in the country for a three-year period of time.

Congressman Jones, a longtime advocate for strengthened immigration laws, saw today’s proposal from President Bush as an insufficient solution for a growing problem.

“I have long advocated immigration reform for this country. I had hoped that today’s plan from President Bush would usher us into a new era of strengthened enforcement and stronger protection from illegal aliens crossing our borders.

Unfortunately, while President’s heart may be in the right place, the significant amount of new federal spending that would result from the new wave of immigrants would overwhelm any good that could possibly come from his plan. With 8 million new immigrants expected as a result of these news laws, we will see a sharp rise in the costs of new aliens’ entitlements and education.

Furthermore, current immigration laws are so poorly enforced; I find it hard to understand how we can even begin to properly implement and enforce the new laws being proposed. I’m concerned that this may actually be an amnesty program under the guise of a "guest worker" program. At a time when we must all be vigilant in protecting the security of our nation, Americans are looking for real immigration reform. Sadly, I believe the reform offered today by the President is a step in the wrong direction.”

For additional information or to schedule an interview with Congressman Walter B. Jones please contact Lanier Swann at (202) 225-3415.