

Congresswoman Nancy Boyda
Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee
Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees,
Border Security, and International Law
Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Madam Chair, and fellow Members, thank you for inviting me to testify on the critical issue of immigration.

We are at a crisis. The lack of enforcement of our immigration laws has led to increased illegal immigration. This is unacceptable to the people of the Second District of Kansas.

In addition to my concerns about the flood of illegal immigrants, I am concerned about where the immigration conversation is going in our country. We are losing control, not only of our borders, but also of the conversation on illegal immigration and how to fix the problem. The longer we delay action, the worse the rhetoric is going to get. At this time we are able to have a conversation that discusses how we move forward securing our borders, verifying employment and enforcing our laws. If we do not address the immigration crisis soon, we will no longer be able to have a conversation about how we fix the problem – it will instead be a yelling match with heated rhetoric against immigrants and immigration. That would be a conversation about hatred. That is not a conversation that represents America at its finest and it is not a conversation that we need to have.

I believe that there are three steps to stopping the flow of illegal immigrants – secure our borders, require employers to verify employment eligibility and enforce immigration laws. Congress can and must demonstrate to the American people that we are willing and able to protect our nation’s borders.

We are a nation of laws – and they must be enforced. Those violating these laws cannot be rewarded. Enforcement of immigration laws would substantially reduce illegal immigration and greatly increase border security. This is why I have serious concerns about some of the provisions of H.R. 750, the Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2007. I believe that several provisions reward those who have broken our laws. And all that does is encourage others to do the same.

I believe that there are three steps to stopping the flow of illegal immigrants – secure our borders, require employers to verify employment eligibility and enforce immigration laws.

Congress can and must demonstrate to the American people that we are willing and able to control our nation’s borders. To that end, H.R. 750 has some worthwhile provisions. It increases the number of border patrol agents by significant numbers and it contains much needed provisions to retain those agents with loan repayments, easing of the regulations on recruitment and retention bonuses, and the repeal of the DHS Human

Resources Management System which has been the cause of much of the career dissatisfaction in this vitally important agency.

H.R. 750 also pays particular attention to addressing concerns about sex offenders abusing our already dysfunctional immigration system.

We are at a turning point, the longer we delay action, the more the rhetoric will get out of hand. If that happens, we will not be able to solve this problem.

The solution is clear – secure our borders, eliminate the jobs magnet and enforce our laws.