

Member Profile: Rep. Steve King (R)

<u>District:</u> Iowa-5 <u>First Elected:</u> 2002

With the Republicans poised to assume control of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress, Rep. Steve King is set to be the next chairman of the House Judiciary <u>Subcommittee on Immigration</u>, <u>Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law</u> which has jurisdiction over immigration and naturalization, border security, admission of refugees, private immigration bills, non-border enforcement, and relevant oversight.

Since taking office in 2002, Rep. King has been a continuous resource of inflammatory rhetoric aimed at immigrants:

- He has called undocumented immigration a "slow-moving terrorist attack."
- King said that each senator who votes for the comprehensive immigration reform bill should "wear a scarlet letter A for amnesty."
- King <u>refused to vote for</u> an innocuous House resolution commending the Muslims on the Ramadan holiday.
- King released a "report" baselessly claiming that undocumented immigrants <u>have</u> <u>murdered more Americans</u> than the combined death toll of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002.
- King frequently uses the term "'anchor baby' industry." He claims undocumented immigrants have children "so that they can have uninhibited access to taxpayer funded benefits and to citizenship for as many family members as possible."

In his current position as ranking member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, King has likewise backed a wide array of harsh immigration proposals including:

- Enforcement-only policies: King has consistently pushed for more border enforcement and an electrified fence along the border to keep undocumented immigrants out. "We do that with livestock all the time," he said. Regarding Arizona's SB 1070 law, King said racial profiling "has always been an important component of legitimate law enforcement" and strongly backs the legislation. Earlier this year, King also sponsored H. Res. 1384, a bill expressing that local governments and police "have the inherent authority of a sovereign entity" to enforce federal immigration laws.
- Cutting visa numbers: He backed both the <u>Nuclear Family Priority Act</u> (H.R. 878) which sought to replace existing family-sponsored immigrant categories with a single preference allocation for spouses and children of permanent resident aliens, and the <u>Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act</u> (H.R. 1430) which sought to end the diversity visa program.
- **English-only legislation**: King cosponsored several bills seeking to establish English as the official language of the United States. (<u>H.R.1229</u>, <u>H.R.769</u>)

Rep. King hasn't held back from sharing his <u>plans</u> for the 112th Congress: "A birthright citizenship bill, legislation to reaffirm states' right to enact Arizona-like immigration laws, a bill to take away deductions from employers who pay illegal immigrants and legislation to crack down on cities that don't go after illegal residents."

King has also stated that he wants to call various leading Obama administration officials to hearings to ask them about immigration enforcement.