US IMMIGRATION REFORM PLAN A

6 KEY INGREDIENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL IMMIGRATION POLICY

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Plan A

Six necessary ingredients for successful US immigration reform

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Foreword

Attention: Congress and the House of Representatives—

With an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living and working here in the United States, it is painfully obvious to everyone that our immigration system is broken, and has been, for quite some time. 11 million people didn't just suddenly show up here overnight, and because you have not fixed this problem for so long, it is now way out of hand. This is YOUR fault. If you would have fixed this problem in 1986, we wouldn't be in the situation we are in today, and because you have successfully avoided fixing this problem for decades, it is easy for us to believe that you are incapable of fixing it at all. Therefore, it falls upon us to tell you what we need, and demand you give it to us or we will find other lawmakers who will. So let me spell it out for you so there is no misunderstanding between us.

Listen-up Washington, this is for you.

As a country we have some basic needs you have failed to satisfy:

1- We need to know who is inside our country;
2- We need to get our companies the labor they need to be able to be competitive in the world market without having to resort to exporting desperately needed jobs overseas;
3- We need to get back the standard of living this country was so famous for;
4- We need to put the needs and security of the American family above all else.

So here it is, **Plan A.** Anything less than this would be plan B, and quite frankly, with all the crap you've put the American people through in the last decade, we deserve the best plan, not the second best, nor the best you could all finally agree on. We want this problem fixed now, and for good, so we won't have to revisit this ridiculous debate again later.

For more information on Plan A or to join in the conversation, go to http://thedishwashersson.org/us-immigration-reform-plan-a/

Plan A

There are just six guiding principles that our future immigration legislation needs to have in order to have a profound and positive effect on our nation. Leave any one of these things out and failure is certain.

Our immigration policy needs to be:

1) Inexpensive
2) Easy
3) Accurate
4) Actionable
5) Taxable
6) Equal

Let me briefly describe why these items are on this plan. As you will see in the diagram below, this affects us all so we need to make sure it affects us positively, not negatively.

Good for the US	Good for Immigrants	Principles for good immigration reform:
X	X	Inexpensive
X	X	Easy
X	X	Accurate
X	X	Actionable
X		Taxable
X	X	Equal

This list shows Plan A to benefit the United States a little more than the immigrant, and so it should; no nation should feel it was placed on this planet to care for all the world's people. If someone wishes to come here and live, they should contribute more to our society than they take out, yet immigration legislation also has to benefit immigrants if we want to make it successful.

There is a saying amongst lawyers and negotiators:

"A contract is only as strong as the person who is least willing to abide by it."

A familiar and painful example of this is the recent housing crisis. Millions of Americans were sold houses with loans that would inflate considerably a few years down the line, but they were told they could re-negotiate these loans later and everything would be okay. Along came the recession and suddenly many new homeowners owed more money than the houses were worth. That was bad enough,

but then when the adjustable mortgage rates ballooned sky high, they were not able to re-finance the loan and they were left with loans they couldn't pay for on houses that weren't worth what they were paying. This system benefited only the banks who held the loans, but because the terms were so one-sided, the homeowners walked away from their contracts, leaving the banks with the properties that weren't worth what they had made the loans for. So now the banks needed help from us, the people they had just taken advantage of, because they were "too big to fail" so we had to bail them out by giving them loans, effectively allowing them to screw us twice. This is the kind of thing that happens when something is not designed properly or is designed to benefit only one of the parties involed.

If the new legislation you put together only benefits one of the players, Americans or immigrants, it would quickly fail. The cheated party would not feel compelled to participate in a system that takes advantage of or victimizes them. We don't want crappy or watered-down laws just to show you did *something*. Why go through all this work if it will ultimately get us nothing, or worse, bill us twice? Any new legislation must treat the immigrant well in order to attract and retain great people, just as corporate wage and benefits policies attract and retain good employees. This new policy should also work well for citizens or we will not be happy either.

So let's take a closer look at what the new immigration system needs to do—for us and the immigrant—in order for it to be successful.

Key Components of "Plan A"

Inexpensive

Our new immigration policy should be **inexpensive** to ensure 100% participation. No one wants to continue having a shadow economy of sub-citizens. Erecting financial barriers will guarantee we continue our undocumented immigrant problem forever. Having an efficient and inexpensive system should also make it that much easier to be self-supporting. We shouldn't have to shoulder much (if any)

of the cost of setting up and maintaining this program. There are many other ways we could put our money to good use: education, medical care for our aging workforce, disaster relief, and paying off our national debt are but a few.

Easy

Our immigration policy should also be **easy to participate in**, and **easy to manage**. The more complex the process is, the more mistakes will find their way into the system. There should also be plenty of offices to process applicants and renew visas so there are no ten-, twenty-, or thirty-year backlogs like the ones that exist for many visas today. We also need to get rid of the lottery system. Should the approval of an immigrant into our society really be based on chance? (Whose brilliant idea was that?)

Accuracy

Accurate records will make this legislation reliable, and therefore highly actionable. This system needs to be well designed so that the data we receive from immigrants identifies them completely. This will allow us to ensure that the right immigrants are approved and the harmful ones are deported or not admitted in the first place. Our homeland security rests on the idea that someone who has been removed from the country, should not get away with returning under a different identity.

Actionable

Actionable means we can do things with the data and information we obtain from our immigrants. We can ensure compliance with the simple and inexpensive rules for receiving the "keys to the kingdom" and take decisive action against those who break these rules. This legislation will also protect the immigrant against people and organizations who wish to take advantage of them. Currently, immigrants suffer from many forms of abuse. If we protect the immigrants, they should be grateful, willing, and downright thankful to participate in this simple and affordable program. It will be in everyone's best interests for this process to succeed.

Taxable.

There needs to be a way for our immigration system to be self-supporting. It is true that the immigrants will add value to our society by purchasing goods, filling jobs, buying cars, and homes, and paying income taxes, but we need to set up systems that will ensure that both immigrants and citizens are taken care of. Think of it as an "immigrant work tax" program.

Being able to track and tax the income of all people within our borders is very important, whether they are citizens or not. Today there is a "shadow society" of people who do not pay income taxes; there are also many that do pay taxes, yet cannot reap the benefits for which they are being taxed. Both situations need to be addressed if we want our new immigration policy to be effective and not place undue hardship on our society.

The new immigrant work tax should be above and beyond what citizens are required to pay. Some immigrants may require services that US citizens do not, such as: legal services; court fees; incarceration and deportation costs, and other assorted services regarding the tracking of our immigrant population and the enforcement of our laws. The fees for participation should cover the expenses to administer this program, enforce the compliance of every immigrant inside our borders, and sustain the system that penalizes those who refuse to participate. Our new immigration program should not be a burden on our society; it should help manage the non-citizens within our borders.

The normal taxes collected by the IRS should go to the same programs that US citizens currently fund with their taxes. This should also include unemployment and disability insurance. In order to attract and retain great workers, we need to show our possible future citizens that it is good to be a US citizen. Using the same programs for immigrants and citizens will help us keep things simple and affordable.

Equality

Our new immigration policy should also have equal requirements for immigrants and citizens to join health care programs for obvious health and financial reasons. Ensuring compliance with all of the programs an immigrant is expected to participate in is an expense in and of itself and should be funded by the immigrants themselves. Perhaps this program could even fund ICE itself.

Without an opportunity to be treated as an **Equal,** an immigrant could find this whole process less than fulfilling and almost certainly harmful. If they are not 100% a part of our community, they will have no vested interest in helping us succeed. They could go back home at any time and compete against us, or at the very least help another country's economy.

Every US citizen needs to be equal in the eyes of the law and our government. If there is among us a sub-class of citizen who lives among us, works with us and pays their fair share of taxes, but who is not given the opportunity to vote or otherwise fully participate in their destiny, we will have failed to give all of our citizens equal access to the American Dream.

Not every person entering our country will even ant to be an American citizen. Some are seasonal workers going home to friends and family after harvest, some are tourists, some are students, some just want to provide for their family while still being able to go back home to be *with* their family want they want or need to, and have no interest in becoming a US citizen, but if immigrants are purposely excluded from voting or the opportunity to become a citizen, they would become vulnerable to be treated like second class citizens by our government, police, and other institutions. If we have learned nothing else from our civil rights era, we should have at least learned this.

Taxation without the possibility of representation was one of the precursors to our struggle for independence from England. If not being able to control our own destiny was a good enough reason to rebel against an oppressive government and

seek our own self-determined solution, then why would we subjugate a portion of our society to suffer that same fate? This would be about as un-American an act as we could possibly inflict against a part of our society.

This should not be without some form of protection, though. If we accepted someone into our society and they committed some horrible act that warranted their expulsion, we should also have the right to revoke their citizenship and deport them, never allowing them to return. This should be the only difference between someone born on American soil, and someone adopted into our family. This would prevent them from becoming a disenfranchised part of our community, and protect us from someone who would do us great harm.

Attention Conservatives:

You will also notice there is little mention of border security in this bill. There are two very sound reasons for this:

1) The border is more secure now than at any time in the last four hundred years. Stop trying to make this an issue. We *all* know this is a bullshit excuse to keep from acting on this issue, so get over it. More resources, money, and manpower have been shifted to the border than during any other time in our history. With over 2 million immigrants deported during his term, President Obama has been the deporting-est President our nation has every seen, so this B.S. about not trusting him is another stalling tactic, and we are not buying it. As a result of our President's extensive efforts to stop people at the border, we are apprehending a record low level of people not seen since 1971. No border in the history of the world has ever been 100% secure, and our border with Mexico has never been more secure than it is right now. The currently beefed-up security was also meant to be temporary. Keeping our current staffing levels at the border is unsustainable given our current financial problems. Growing it even more

would be a financial disaster for our nation, especially given the diminishing returns each additional dollar will give us.

2) When we focus on compliance and make it easy and financially accessible and, ultimately, highly beneficial for everyone to participate in our immigration system, the need for prevention will be greatly reduced. As compliance passes 80% the need for our current border forces will diminish, allowing us to draw down our border staff and re-allocate that manpower to more important tasks like catching criminals and making our neighborhoods safe. The remaining staff's day to day activities will shift to rounding up drug runners and criminals, as upstanding immigrants will opt to do things the easy, inexpensive, legal, and safe way. Catching fewer people should be easier than trying to stem the tide of a million immigrants a year, so our border security should even increase while we reduce our expenses and shift our resources where they will be needed most.

Now for us citizens-

We can create a program that is good for both the US and the immigrant, can be easily set up and maintained, and will not add to our budget deficit. This program will also protect and nourish a great part of our communities and culture. All of this talk about punishing the people who are already here will not benefit us and is only designed to appease those among us with an overdeveloped sense of discipline. With the emerging markets producing more and more industrial competition around the world, we can use all the help we can get. Immigrants of all kinds are needed to keep us leading the world in engineering, innovation, economy, and quality of life.

We need to tell our lawmakers we have waited long enough and they need to act on this issue THIS YEAR, and we need to tell them that NOW. The Republicans could

surprise us and come up with something sooner than later. If that happens, the compromises that will inevitably find their way into the bill will likely cripple it and hinder any future progress we might enjoy. If anything in this plan is not included in future immigration legislation, we will see all of our hard work return a bitter result.

We need to send our lawmakers a message and let them know we will not stand for any more crap. We put them in their current position to take care of our government and provide us with the legislation we need to have a smooth-running country.

They are failing.

The current focus of some conservatives is the need to punish the immigrants, yet it is mostly their fault for blocking the many immigration bills that could have saved us from these trying times. This has bought us nothing. We have over 11 million people living and working within our borders; we do not know who they are or how much they are contributing to our society, and we cannot properly take care of them. Enforcement alone has not, and will not fix this problem. This delaying needs to end right now. We need to identify, protect, and fully monetize our immigrant population.

We can either punish the immigrants for coming here illegally or we can help them to become happy, legal, tax-paying members of our society. We cannot do both.

Which do you think should be our priority—punishment or compliance?

Join the conversation now. *This eBook is FREE.* **Please pass it on**.

About the Author

Mike J Quinn is the father and husband in a multi-status family. He has been working to get citizenship for his family members who aren't US citizens for over 7 years, with no end in sight. There are over 2 million such US families living in fear of being

split up every day. Mike is the author of "American Needs a DREAM Act, and he has written a novel, "The Dishwasher's Son" about an Arizona teenager and border guard volunteer who gets accidentally deported to Mexico, then has to sneak across the border using the same techniques he has been learning to defend against as a Minuteman volunteer.

You can find him on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Dishwashers-Son/360042637373316

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You can also join the discussion about Plan A at his blog:

http://thedishwashersson.org/us-immigration-reform-plan-a/