

New Report and SAVE Act Introduced

Mark Krikorian, Executive Director at the Center for Immigration Studies, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research organization devoted exclusively to research and policy analysis of the economic, social, demographic, fiscal, and other impacts of immigration on the United States, is making the rounds—touting the new report by his organization. It is a disheartening look at the negative impact of unrestricted illegal immigration.

Called “*Immigrants in the United States, 2007—A Profile of America’s Foreign-Born Population*,” it is the only major study on immigration from the year 2000 until now, a study looking at a seven-year spread of data, released in November, 2007. It draws its conclusion from the March 2007 Current Population Survey (CPS), which data is collected by the Census Bureau. The March data, which is also called the *Annual Social and Economic Supplement*, is one of the best sources of information on the foreign-born.

“Among the report’s findings:

- The nation’s immigrant population (legal and illegal) reached a record of 37.9 million in 2007.
- Immigrants account for one in eight U.S. residents, the highest level in 80 years. In 1970 it was one in 21; in 1980 it was one in 16; and in 1990 it was one in 13.
- Overall, nearly one in three immigrants is an illegal alien. Half of Mexican and Central American immigrants and one-third of South American immigrants are illegal.
- Since 2000, 10.3 million immigrants have arrived – the highest seven-year period of immigration in U.S. history. More than half of post-2000 arrivals (5.6 million) are estimated to be illegal aliens.
- The largest increases in immigrants were in California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Arizona, Virginia, Maryland, Washington, Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.
- The proportion of immigrant-headed households using at least one major welfare program is 33 percent, compared to 19 percent for native households.
- The poverty rate for immigrants and their U.S.-born children (under 18) is 17 percent, nearly 50 percent higher than the rate

for natives and their children.

- Immigrants make significant progress over time. But even those who have been here for 20 years are more likely to be in poverty, lack insurance, or use welfare than are natives.
- The primary reason for the high rates of immigrant poverty, lack of health insurance, and welfare use is their low education levels, not their legal status or an unwillingness to work.
- There is a worker present in 78 percent of immigrant households using at least one welfare program."¹

The downside of all the facts of the study are largely twofold:

First, the influx of millions of under-skilled and under-educated illegal aliens with 19th century work skills in a 21st century world are not giving any 'value-added' components to their addition to the U.S. population.

Secondly, a high number of immigrants are using welfare program assistance of some form and the totals escalate when considering those with children who avail themselves of welfare.

In addition (and perhaps more grating to the nerves of natives) the use of green cards for legal immigrants and driver's licenses for illegal ones is creating confusion in the migrant population, and there are valid suspicions by government officials that they are using them increasingly to gain entrance to the voting booth to pull the lever for their chosen candidates in local and national elections.

Then, on the heels of this report, three senators are presently engaged in promoting a piece of legislation entitled, SAVE (Secure America through Verification and Enforcement) Act. With 112 co-sponsors in Congress, this bill represents the first of what will eventually evolve into a backlash of anti-illegal alien bills. From the immigration site, NumbersUSA.com, comes this news:

"Rep. Heath Shuler (D-N.C.) introduced the SAVE Act (**H.R. 4088**) on Tuesday, November 6, emphasizing the principles of Attrition Through Enforcement (**click here** to read his press release). The SAVE Act will broaden and enhance border security and interior enforcement. With a number of border security Democrats and Republicans already agreeing to co-sponsor, this bipartisan effort may be Congress's best chance to achieve substantial immigration reform this Congress.

November 28, 2007: Two versions of Rep. Heath Shuler's (D-N.C.) SAVE Act (Secure America with Verification Enforcement [H.R. 4088]) were introduced in the Senate by Senators **Mark Pryor (D-Ark.)**, **Mary Landrieu (D-La.)** and **David Vitter (R-La.)**

prior to the Thanksgiving recess. The Pryor/Landrieu bill is S. 2368 and Sen. Vitter's bill is S. 2366. *Both bills are identical and have been endorsed by NumbersUSA.*"²

An anti-enforcement article headed, "S.A.V.E. Us," by Patrick M. McLeod on the site, The Texas Blue.com, takes exception to the move by legislators to crack down on illegals through its designated measures:

"Representative Heath Shuler's H.R. 4088, a bill that seeks to "provide immigration reform by securing America's borders, clarifying and enforcing existing laws, and enabling a practical employer verification program", was referred to committee on November 6th.

"Known as the S.A.V.E. Act (Secure America with Verification and Enforcement), Representative Shuler's legislation would increase the number of Border Patrol agents through a mix of bonuses, student loan repayments and other financial incentives, increase aerial surveillance of the border, establish a "Tunnel Task Force", expand the E-Verify program, make the E-Verify a requirement in four years' time, expand ICE resources and capabilities, expand detention facilities and implement a Spanish-language media campaign to target the illegal immigrant community to alert them of the new laws and consequences of the S.A.V.E. Act. This piece of legislation has an impressive amount of bipartisan support amongst its co-sponsors, including most of the Texas Republican contingent (Burgess, Conway, Gohmert, Hall, Marchant, McCaul, Neugebauer, Poe, Sessions and Smith).

"Are we going to need to be saved from S.A.V.E.? With co-sponsors like Marchant and Sessions, we should all be suspicious of what is under the hood. What's under the hood, in my opinion, is the illegal immigration equivalent of expanded federal powers in the "war on drugs." Increases in personnel, regulation, criminalization and enforcement have not sealed victory in terms of "winning" the "war on drugs" and they won't "solve" our illegal immigration problem, either."³

Look for more on this bill soon.

¹Steven A. Camarota, "*Immigrants in the United States, 2007- A Profile of America's Foreign-Born Population*," November 2007. Center for Immigration Studies, <http://www.cis.org/articles/2007/back1007.html>. (accessed 12-3-2007)

²NumbersUSA.com, "*Three Senators Introduce Rep. Shuler's SAVE (Secure America through Verification and Enforcement) Act*," <http://www.numbersusa.com/interests/attrition.html>. (accessed 12-3-2007)

³Patrick M McLeod, "S.A.V.E. Us," 11/16/2007, TheTexasBlue.com, <http://www.thetexasblue.com/s-v-e-us>. (accessed 12-3-2007)