

Justice Talking Listening Guide
Immigration Reform
5/29/06

SHOW SUMMARY

The Senate is considering sweeping reforms that give some undocumented immigrants a chance to become permanent residents and citizens. But the proposals have met with stiff opposition from those who want to focus immigration reform on tightening our borders and punishing or deporting illegal immigrants. On this edition of Justice Talking we take a thorough look at immigration policy and border security. We'll ask if there is a way to prevent illegal border crossings, accommodate the need for guest workers and preserve our heritage as a nation of immigrants.



Douglas Massey

- Part 1: Margot speaks with sociologist Douglas Massey about where our immigrants come from and how they get here.



Christian Ramirez

- Part 2: Adam Allington reports from the state of Michigan, where lawmakers are drafting legislation to limit illegal immigrants' access to scholarship benefits.

- Part 3: Immigrants' rights advocate Christian Ramirez debates lawyer James Edwards about immigrants' rights and their responsibilities to play by the rules in their adopted country.



James Edwards

- Part 4: Margot speaks with Marco Lopez, an advisor on Mexico and Latin America to Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano about how illegal immigration affects border towns.



Marco Lopez

- Part 5: Margot speaks with Bob Currans, a doctor on the Mexican border whose efforts to assist illegal immigrants may become criminal acts.

- Part 6: Margot speaks with Stacey O'Connell, a member of a group of independent citizen volunteers who help patrol the border.

The New York Times
LearningNetwork

"Borders, Open and Closed"

Watch this *New York Times* audio slideshow about the history of immigration regulation in the U.S.

http://www.nytimes.com/packages/khtml/2006/05/21/weekinreview/20060521_BERN_FEATURE.html



Host Margot Adler

Margot Adler is a National Public Radio correspondent based in NPR's New York Bureau. Adler has thirty years of experience as a radio host and reporter and is the author of several books. She lives in New York City with her husband and son.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Citizenship – This is a “membership in a political community” where the person is given the right to participate in the organization. To become a naturalized United States citizen, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age, a legal permanent resident of the United States, and have resided in the United States for five years before applying. He or she must be a “person of good moral character,” and must pass a test on United States history and government. Most applicants must also have a working knowledge of the English language.

Felony – A serious crime, in contrast to a misdemeanor, that is punishable under law by death or imprisonment for more than one year. Murder, rape, treason, kidnapping, arson and burglary are all considered felonies under U.S. federal law. The definition of a felony varies from state to state. Besides death or imprisonment for longer than a year, possible punishments for a felony include losing citizenship, which among other things takes away a person’s right to vote, and deportation for aliens.

Minuteman – The Minuteman Project Civil Defense Corps is a group of independent citizen volunteers in the United States who take upon themselves the task of monitoring the borders of the country for people trying to cross illegally. The group claims they help prevent illegal immigration by reporting the people they find to the U.S. Border Patrol. The Minutemen have been called vigilantes, people who take law enforcement into their own hands, by President George W. Bush. The name “minutemen” was first given to men who fought in the American Revolution, because they would be ready for battle in a minute’s notice.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to guests Christian Ramirez and Bob Currans, how do the trade policies between the United States and Mexico affect how many people immigrate to the United States?
2. Do you think making it a felony to knowingly assist an illegal immigrant is a good policy? Why?



Read the opinions of high schools students about how legislators should handle immigration reform on the *Student Voices Speak Out* at <http://student-voices.org/discussions/discussion.php?DiscussionID=478>.