

HOUSE AND SENATE SUMMERTIME HEARING ON IMMIGRATION

This month marked the beginning of a series of hearings that will be conducted nationwide to further examine the complexities of our failed immigration system and to determine what provisions a new piece of legislation needs to include to remedy the issues. Moreover, the hearings to be held throughout the summer will examine the nation's labor needs and the porous borders that need to be secured. Though some members of congress state that the purpose of the field hearings is to better understand what American's want to be included in an immigration reform bill, as a practical matter, the hearings delay the debate from advancing and postpone conference between the House and Senate; until the hearings are complete, negotiations to reconcile the two bills will not begin. As speculated by many, the hearings will be used as a political platform where Republicans and Democrats will spar over the best approach to be taken; it will likely prove to be a battle over political positioning. GT remains closely involved and has suggested witnesses to testify at the hearings on behalf of our clients. Additionally GT has submitted letters stating our support for comprehensive immigration reform to be made part of the hearing record.

List of scheduled hearings:

I. HEARINGS SCHEDULED

July 20 – House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee Hearing

Topic: Border Fence – How does Senate bill compare to House bill with regard to enhancing border infrastructure?
Location: TBD

July 26 – Education and Workforce Education Reform Subcommittee, Rep. Castle

Topic: What is role of English in American education/society, and does Senate undermine, rather than encourage, this role?
Location: Washington, D.C.

July 26 – House Committee on Ways and Means, Chairman Thomas

Topic: Review the impact of current and proposed border security and immigration policies on programs in the Committee's jurisdiction
Location: Washington, D.C. - 1100 LHOB, 2pm

July 27 – House Homeland Security Subcommittee

Topic: Expedited Removal of illegal aliens – does Senate bill make it more difficult to expedite removal of illegal aliens in U.S.
Location: TBD

July 27 – House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee

Topic: Will the Senate bill overwhelm the already overburdened U.S. CIS? Will 10-20 million new applicants for citizenship make it easier for criminals and terrorists to evade background checks?
Location: TBD

July 27 – International Relations Subcommittee

Topic: To what degree is illegal immigration an issue for Western Hemisphere countries, and does Senate bill undercut American diplomatic efforts to curb illegal immigration?
Location: TBD

July 31 – House Education and Workforce Committee, Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee, Chairman Johnson, R-Texas

Topic: "Immigration: Enforcing Employee Work Eligibility Laws and Implementing a Stronger Employment Verification System"
Location: Plano City Council Chamber, Plano, TX (11am)

II. TENTATIVE HEARINGS (NOT CONFIRMED)

July 20 – House Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources

Topic: Expanding Border Fence, its impact on flow of drugs, aliens
Location: TBD

July 20 – House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, Rep. Coble

Topic: Terrorist Financing and Money Laundering
Location: TBD

July 25 – House International Relations Committee

Topic: Implementation of the Hague Intercountry Act, which sets minimum international standards and procedures for adoptions that occur between implementing countries to ensure greater protection from exploitation of children, birth parents and adoptive parents
Location: TBD

July 25 – House Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Rep. Candice Miller

Topic: Cooperation between IRS, SSA, DOL, and DHS to reduce employment of illegal immigrants

Location: TBD

July 27 – House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Border Security supplemental funding – what’s been accomplished, how progress measured, etc.

Location: TBD

Mid-July/August – House Education and the Workforce, Rep. Buck McKeon

Topic: Temporary Worker Program

Location: Washington, D.C.

August 1 – House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Border Security measures in San Diego shifting flow of illegals to Arizona, diminishing training time; also focus on local Guard units and SW Border Initiative

Location: Yuma, AZ

August 2-3 – House Homeland Security Committee Full Committee

Topic: Site visits along the New Mexico Border

Location: New Mexico

August 2-3 – House Judiciary Committee Full Committee

Topic: Border fence and differences between House and Senate

Location: San Diego, CA

August 2 – Senate Finance Committee

Topic: Fraudulent documents

Location: TBD

August 16 – House Committee on Government Reform

Topic: Interior Enforcement

Location: Flagstaff, AZ

Week of August 14, House Government Reform

Topic: The economic impact and costs to federal, state, and local governments

Location: San Diego, CA

DATES NOT SET FOR THE FOLLOWING HEARINGS:

House Ways and Means, Chairman Bill Thomas

Topic: Social Security/Health Care

Location: TBD

House Committee on Government Reform

Topic: Field hearing on the Mistakes made in 1986

Location: TBD

Senate Judiciary Committee - 4 Hearings in August

Topic: Assimilation

Location: Miami, FL

Topic: DREAM Act/Undocumented Children

Location: Denver, CO

Topic: Title III: Employment and Document Fraud

Location: San Diego, CA

Topic: High Tech Temporary Worker Program

Location: Texas