

## Dramatic Rise in Border and Immigration Enforcement

### The path to citizenship should not be contingent on enforcement

The Senate Bi-Partisan Committee framework, presented January 2013, proposes that before undocumented immigrants can access the path towards citizenship, additional immigration enforcement must be implemented. This leaves immigrant families in indefinite legal limbo while proposing to give a commission veto power over the citizenship of 11 million people. Border enforcement and deportations have sharply escalated over nearly three decades in response to demands for enforcement first. It's time for a pathway to citizenship and it must be independent of border enforcement.

#### Steep increase in border enforcement

- Border patrol agents have doubled since 2004.
- 651 miles of fencing have been completed along the southern border.<sup>i</sup>
- Increases in border enforcement are a human rights issue. Following heightened enforcement, border crossing deaths more than doubled from 1995-2006, primarily due to migrants dying from heat in the desert.<sup>ii</sup>

- Benchmarks for more border agents, fencing, surveillance towers, detention beds, and drones laid out in the failed immigration bills of 2006, 2007 and 2010 have nevertheless been met or exceeded.<sup>iii</sup>

#### Record numbers of deportations

- The Obama Administration deported over 1.5 million immigrants in its first term, more deportations per year than any other administration in United States history.<sup>iv</sup>
- These deportations separate families and leave children without their mothers or fathers. In the last two years, over 200,000 parents of U.S. citizens were deported.<sup>v</sup>
- The U.S. spent \$18 billion last year on immigration enforcement, more than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined.<sup>vi</sup>

#### Justice delayed is justice denied

Immigrants continue to bear the brunt of the steep increase in border enforcement and record number of deportations, resulting in the separation of families and migrants dying or being killed in the desert. We cannot continue to deny immigrants' labor contributions and personal sacrifices that have been their start on the path to citizenship by making citizenship contingent on the further escalation of border enforcement. Further border aggression must not be a precondition for opening the pathway to citizenship.

<sup>i</sup> Customs and Border Patrol

<sup>ii</sup> Government Accountability Office report, August 2006

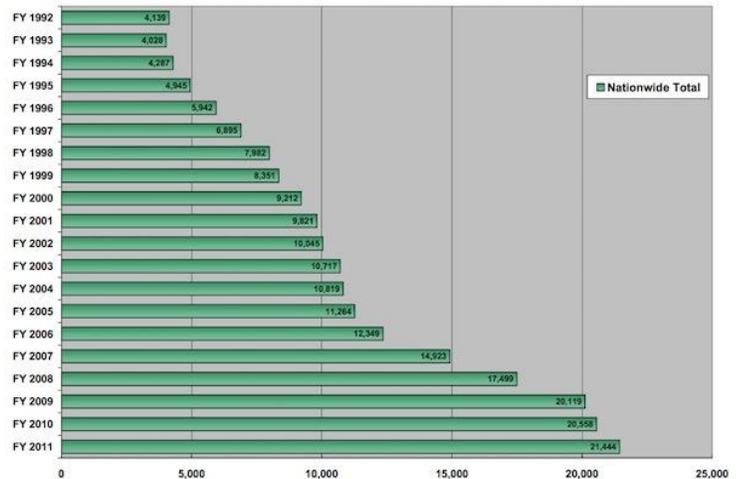
<sup>iii</sup> American Immigration Lawyers Association, "Border Security: Moving Beyond Past Benchmarks"

<sup>iv</sup> Department of Homeland Security

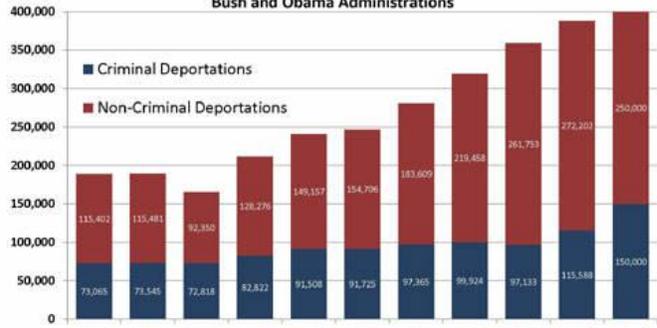
<sup>v</sup> Immigration and Customs Enforcement data compiled by Colorlines

<sup>vi</sup> Migration Policy Institute, "Immigration Enforcement in the United States"

**United States Border Patrol**  
Border Patrol Agent Staffing by Fiscal Year (Oct. 1st through Sept. 30th)



**DEPORTATIONS BY FISCAL YEAR**  
Bush and Obama Administrations



Data from FY 2000-FY 2008 from DHS' Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2008.

\*From the Washington Post, 3/19/10.

\*\*ICE goals for FY 2010, according to a 2/22/10 internal memo released by the Washington Post.

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