

U.S. Border Security.Info

Sneak of the
Month:
Cook County
Department of
Corrections

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DHS Welcomes New Immigrants to the World of Benefits

Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is outright promoting welfare benefits in the "welcome" packets issued to new immigrants and the U.S. Border Security Council aims to stop it.

The "Welcome to USA.gov" website is considered the first stop for new immigrants to find out basic information about life in the United States. This site

now features an eye-catching new section for new immigrants on how they can take advantage of federal government benefits.

"Depending on your immigration status, length of time in the United States, and income, you may be eligible for some federal benefit programs," the webpage states. "Government assistance programs can be critically important to the well-being of some immigrants and their

families. Frequently, however, there is a lack of information about how to access such benefits. Benefit programs can be complicated and you may be given misleading information about how they operate."

The webpage also directs visitors to other government websites that explain how to access benefits including food stamps, Supplemental Security Income

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Republican Calls for Amnesty Grow Louder

As the new Congress prepares to take office, establishment Republican leaders are working overtime to craft their own amnesty bill.

House Speaker John Boehner has even gone so far as to declare that he will work to pass a "comprehensive immigration reform" bill this year.

"It's all hands on deck now for us," warns U.S. Border Security Council National Spokesman Steve LeBlanc. "We have to assume we will be fighting a Republican Amnesty bill on the floor of the U.S. House of

Representatives in the next few months.

LeBlanc says that this feels very similar to 2007 when then President George W. Bush tried to ram his version of Amnesty through Congress. "We beat the pro-illegal alien lobby back then, so I don't see why we can't defeat this new Amnesty bill in 2013."

Republicans in Washington, D.C., are absolutely convinced Mitt Romney lost his bid for the Presidency because he didn't pander to Hispanic voters enough. So, GOP politicians are

practically tripping over themselves to propose an Amnesty bill that they think will help win over those voters.

"Looking at the numbers, Mitt Romney didn't lose because of Hispanics," LeBlanc says. The Hispanic vote is only 10% of the voting population and a lot of it is concentrated in states like California and Texas where the results of last November's election were never in doubt. Passing an Amnesty bill will only make things worse – both politically and economically. And we

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Border Security News in Brief

Georgia Immigration Law Goes into Effect

A federal judge in Atlanta, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Thrash, has ruled that law enforcement agencies can immediately begin enforcing a section of the law that authorizes law enforcement to verify the immigration status of criminal suspects who fail to produce proper identification. Earlier this year, Judge Thrash had issued preliminary injunctions that blocked some parts of the law pending the outcome of a legal challenge to the law filed by a coalition of activist groups. The bulk of their appeal was denied by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The three-member panel also left in place Judge Thrash's original injunction blocking part of the law that makes it illegal for someone to knowingly harbor or transport an illegal immigrant during the commission of a crime. That section of the law remains blocked by court order.

Georgia's law does not require officers to check someone's

immigration status, unlike laws found in other states like Arizona. Rather, it authorizes them to check immigration status during the investigation of another crime if a suspect cannot produce an acceptable form of identification, such as a valid driver's license. Local governments oversee police and sheriffs (law enforcement) and will have to set enforcement policy on a department by department basis.

Super Panga Nets Human Smuggling Operation

U.S. Border Patrol agents intercepted a 40-foot Mexican smuggling boat, or super panga, carrying more than two dozen illegal immigrants off the coast of southern California near Rancho Palos Verdes. Federal authorities from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) suspected it was involved in a smuggling operation after spotting it during routine surveillance in the pre-dawn

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SNEAK OF THE MONTH: Cook Co. Dept. of Corrections

Cook County Department of Corrections (Illinois) deserves a public slap on the wrist for arguing more about jurisdiction than public safety. Armando Serafin was arrested on charges of sexual assault on a minor. Because of political bickering between agencies, the CCDOC

refuses to acknowledge any ICE detainer requests, even for violent offenders. This potentially puts Serafin and other illegal immigrants charged with violent crimes back into the public, rather than behind bars or outside of our borders. Shame on them.

Calls for Amnesty

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are going to hammer that home in the coming months."

LeBlanc says the Council will continue to bombard Congress with petitions and hopes to ramp up its online lobbying in the coming months as a vote nears. "This will be the biggest political battle of the year and the U.S. Border Security Council is going to play a huge role in defeating any push for Amnesty. I can promise our supporters that."

Help Defend Our Borders!

I want to help defend America's sovereignty from the invasion of illegal aliens. Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$10 \$15 \$25 \$50

\$100 Other: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Return this form with your contribution to:

U.S. Border Security Council
P.O. Box 96197
Washington, DC 20090-6197

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DHS Welcome (continued from page 1)

(SSI), Medicaid, Medicare, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), among others.

The “Welcome to USA.gov” website also crowds to immigrants that “[f]ree public education for children is one reason many immigrants come to the United States.”

“The Obama Administration is literally marketing welfare benefits to illegal aliens,” exclaims Council National Spokesman Steve LeBlanc. “This has to be stopped and we are going to take the lead on this issue.”

Ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, Senator Jeff Sessions

(R-AL), told *The Daily Caller* that DHS should take the web-page off-line to discourage

immigrants from participating in “benefit programs that they are not lawfully entitled to.”

A Republican Budget Committee staffer wrote that the issue is not only the offering of welfare benefits without eligibility, but also the fact that the government is providing immigrants visas with the expectation that they will avail themselves of government assistance. “One of the important points about the legal problems with the DHS site and materials is not only the issue of immigrant eligibility, but the fact that U.S. immi-

gration officials are obviously granting visas to those they believe will and should be receiving government assistance,” the staffer wrote in an email to *The Daily Caller*. “Immigration law is supposed to operate so that individuals at risk for being placed on public assistance are not admitted in the first place.”

“The fact of the matter is this: in fiscal year 2011, only 7,069 out of 10.37 million immigrant and non-immigrant applications processed by the State Department — were denied due to a dependency risk. That is a less than 0.068 percent denial rate,”

“Immigration law is supposed to operate so that individuals at risk for being placed on public assistance are not admitted in the first place.”

— *Republican Budget Committee staffer*

said LeBlanc. “It would seem that there is not a rigorous review of immigrants if more than 99% pass the litmus dependency test.”

This fall, Sen. Sessions was joined by Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Pat Roberts (R-KS), Ranking Members of the Senate Judiciary, Finance, and Agriculture Committees, respectively, in publicly chiding Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the failure of DHS to respond to an oversight

request for information on visa applications.

“Historically, the nation has understood that people who come to the country should not be dependent on the state,” said Sen. Sessions. “And if you could not show that you were going to be independent, then you didn’t get admitted.”

Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act explains that immigrants are “inadmissible” to the United States if the U.S. Attorney General or any consular officer who interacts with them determines that he or she “is likely at any time to become a public charge.”

In a separate interview with *The Daily Caller*, USCIS spokesman Christopher

Bentley went on record stating that Homeland Security does not keep data on how many people are rejected because they may become public charges and that becoming a public charge is not reason enough to deport a permanent non-citizen resident.

“We are going to push the Congress to rein in all this nonsense,” LeBlanc promises. Immigration officials should keep out the people who are coming to the U.S. simply to avail themselves of welfare benefits.”

We Want To Hear From You

We Need Your Help!

Dear Friend,

Our nation needs to decide what we want our immigration policy to say about this country and our shared values. In 1986, Congress under the Reagan Administration passed a massive amnesty bill. More than twenty years later, the track record of that effort speaks for itself: the number of illegal immigrants here is estimated to be four times higher than before.

Clearly, huge numbers of people did not self deport or choose to stop crossing our borders illegally. The numbers don't lie.

For many, the choice between living here on society's edge as an illegal immigrant and returning to their native land is stark: the opportunities they hope to receive for themselves or family members, now and in the future, far outweigh the risk of deportation. Add to this the complications of families with anchor babies (minor children who are U.S. citizens) and the situation of legal status is complicated.

The rights of American citizenship and the benefits granted to legal residents in this country are not dime store candies to be passed out indiscriminately. To protect those rights and privileges, the rule of law must be upheld, not callously, but with compassion and well-thought care. Individuals who have chosen to willfully break that law start off on the wrong foot.

We must take a hard, impartial look at the factors driving so many men and women to make the choice of living here illegally and remove that incentive. Then, and only then, will we be able to ensure that our nation has the secure borders our citizens and legal residents deserve.

Keep fighting for America,



Steven J. LeBlanc
Former Sergeant, U.S. Army
Operation Desert Storm Combat Veteran
For the U.S. Border Security Council

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approaching the U.S. coast.

Those subjects who are not held for possible criminal prosecution will be remanded to the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol to be processed and repatriated. Some may remain temporarily as witnesses in case criminal charges are filed by Homeland Security investigators against the smugglers. In addition to ICE, the U.S. Coast Guard and several state and local

law enforcement agencies are assisting in the investigation.

Criminals have turned to maritime smuggling as border security at land crossings and airports has tightened. In the last two years, law enforcement has seen encounters with ocean-going smugglers nearly double. In 2008, there were 45 human-smuggling-related incidents, most of them in the San Diego area.

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Ducking Safety Standards

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach seized more than 35,000 rubber ducks, decorated as Santa, snowmen, and other holiday figures, shipped from China. Port officials claim the items contain levels of a regulated phthalate, a chemical used to make vinyl and plastics soft and flexible — and one that experts say may not be safe for children. Phthalate has reportedly been linked to birth defects, early puberty, infertility, asthma, and ADHD. A 2008 law banned children's products containing more than 1,000 parts per million of phthalates from being sold, but many products still make their way to store shelves.