

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON IMMIGRATION



fine you when we catch you doing it. But we've got to get the employers the tools to make sure that the people who are here are here legally. Thirdly, I think there needs to be -- I know there needs to be a worker program that says you can come here on a temporary basis and work here legally for jobs Americans aren't doing.

THE PRESIDENT: I just had a really interesting conversation. First of all, this business is owned by two Iranian American brothers. They are small business owners, they are entrepreneurs, they are employing people.

These people remind me that one of the great features of our country is that people are able to come here and realize dreams. One of the problems we have because our economy is strong is that small business owners have trouble finding workers.

And one of the things we've got to do is to make sure that they have a verification plan that will enable them to determine, as they hire new workers, whether or not the workers are here illegally.

I'm strongly for a comprehensive immigration policy, one that enforces the border. And we're doing that by expanding agents and putting new technologies on our border.

I love being -- I cannot tell you how I love being with entrepreneurs and dreamers and doers and people who are running things, and managers, and to be with my fellow citizens as we talk about a very important public policy, and that's rational, comprehensive immigration reform.

with Congress for a temporary worker plan that will have background checks to make sure that people that are coming aren't criminals, that say you can come here for a temporary basis, that you can do work others aren't doing, and that's one way to make sure that employers know they're hiring people who are here legally.

We need to make sure we help people assimilate. I met four people here who assimilated into our country. They speak English; they understand the history of our country; they love the American flag as much as I love the American flag.

And finally, we cannot kick people out who have been here for a while. And so I look forward to working with Congress on a rational plan as to how to make sure people who have been here, the 11 million or so people who have been here for a while are treated with respect and dignity.

But I'm also realistic to tell you that we're not going to be able to deport people who have been here, working hard and raising their families. So I want to work with Congress to come up with a rational way forward.

Again, I want to thank you all for having me. I love being -- I cannot tell you how I love being with entrepreneurs and dreamers and doers and people who are running things, and managers, and to be with my fellow citizens as we talk about a very important public policy, and that's rational, comprehensive immigration reform.

Thank you all very much. See you back at the White House.

Strong Economic Growth And Fiscal Discipline Help Reduce Budget Deficit President Goal To Cut Deficit In Half Is Projected To Be Met A Year Ahead Of Schedule

Today, The Office Of Management And Budget Reported The FY2006 Budget Deficit Is Forecast To Be 30 Percent Lower Than The Forecast In February And The President Goal To Halve The Deficit Is On Track To Be Met A Year Ahead Of Schedule.

The President pro-growth policies have encouraged robust economic growth and job creation, thereby strengthening government revenues and helping to reduce the deficit. The new report estimates this year deficit to be \$296 billion or 2.3 percent of GDP.

Economic Growth Generates Increased Tax Receipts And Dramatically Improves Budget Outlook

Stronger Than Expected Economic Growth In The Opening Quarter Of 2006. The economy has grown 18 consecutive quarters and real GDP grew at an annual rate of 5.6 percent for the first quarter of the year.

President Bush's Pro-Growth Policies Have Resulted In Impressive Job Growth And Economic Expansion. The economy has created over 5.4 million jobs since August 2003.

The American People Hard Work Helped Overcome Significant Challenges. This job growth is particularly impressive in light of the series of challenges faced by the Nation over the past five years, including the stock market decline beginning in 2000, the recession, the terrorist attacks on 9/11, the ensuing Global War on Terror, devastating hurricanes, and higher energy prices.

A Robust Economy Has Helped Produce Rapid Increases In Federal Receipts. From 2005 to 2006, receipts are projected to grow 11 percent (\$246 billion), more than twice as fast as

the economy itself. Since the tax relief was fully implemented in 2003, tax receipts have increased over 34.6 percent.

Spending Restraint Helps Reduce Budget Deficit

The President Has Held The Line On The Growth Of Discretionary Spending. Last year, the President proposed to cut non-security discretionary spending below the previous year level, the first such proposal since the Reagan Administration.

The Line Item Veto Will Give The President An Important Tool To Eliminate Wasteful Spending. Working with Congress, this tool can help reduce the budget deficit and discourage the practice of earmarking Federal funds for projects that are wasteful, duplicative, or unneeded.

Unsustainable Growth In Entitlement Programs Poses Long-Term Threat To Budget

Protecting Our Nation Long-Term Fiscal Health Requires Reining-In Runaway Entitlement Spending. Over the next 30 years, spending for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security will grow to the point that it will crowd out the rest of the Federal budget if needed reforms are not made.

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