



Passion
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THE GREAT IMMIGRATION DEBATE

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Facts

- 12 million people here illegally – intense labor demand
- 54.6% of all temporary resident graduate students in STEM
- 15.7% of U.S. citizen and permanent resident graduate students in STEM
- In 2004, 950,000 engineers graduated in India and China compared to 70,000 in U.S.
- In 1999, only 41% of U.S. eighth-graders had a math teacher who majored in math

Historical Hot Potato

- September 2001 Bush-Fox Visit
- “We’re a nation of immigrants.”
- “Ought to be a temporary worker card that allows a willing worker and a willing employer to mate up”
- 9/11

HR 4437

- Build a 700 mile fence
- Stricter penalties on employers
- Felony to be undocumented worker
- Passed by House in December 2005
- Died in Conference Committee

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (McCain-Kennedy)



- Path to legalization
- “Blue Card” guest worker program
- Increased security on southern border
- H-1B increase
- EEVS
- Passed by Senate in April 2006
- Died in Conference Committee

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007

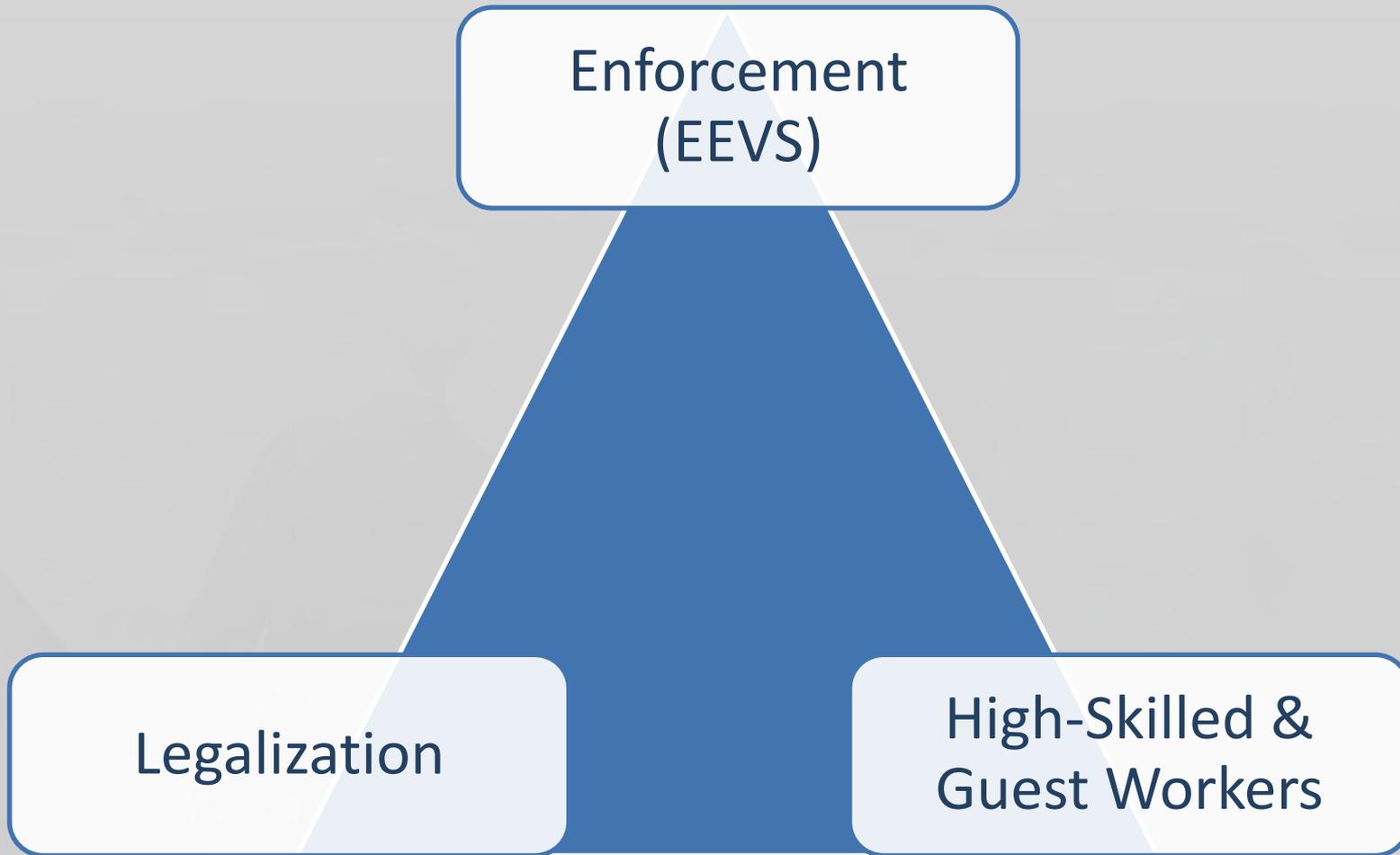
- Compromise between “Path to Citizenship” and increased border security
- Z visa – 8 years – green card
- Restructure of high-skilled visa criteria with points system
- EEVS
- Guest worker visa
- End chain migration
- DREAM Act
- Died on June 7, 2007

Analysis of Failure

- Heated criticism from Left and Right
- Conservatives opposed path to citizenship as a reward for breaking the law
- Liberals criticized points system and limits on family reunification
- Labor unions and some Hispanic organizations attacked guest workers provisions
- High-tech industry criticized point system



Traditional Approach



Orrenius-Zavodny

- Use demand-based auction for companies to bid for permits
- Increase share of employment-based immigrants
- Restrict family unification
- Legalization with EEVS to transition

Friedman

- Strategic approach to attract more of the world's creative risk-takers
- Immigrants are opportunity focused
- High rate of economic achievements and self-employment
- We should open our doors to entrepreneurs from around the globe

Legislation

- Eliminate per country limits?
- Eliminate siblings?
- Eliminate DV lottery?
- High Tech/Ag Jobs/Dream Act/Enforcement?

Current Environment

- The past shows that splintering makes it tougher
- Comprehensive means everyone has skin in game
- Economic needs at both ends of skill spectrum
- Focus on Innovation and Entrepreneurship