

How does the United States Manages illegal immigration?



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Introduction

The United States is the country which welcomes most immigrants in the world, about 700,000 foreign-born people per year. The first European immigrants in American history came from England and the Netherlands, attracted by reports of great economic opportunities and religious and political freedom. During the late 19th century, the government operated a special port of entry on Ellis Island; it was in operation from 1892 until 1954 and is now preserved as part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. Between 1820 and 1979, the United States admitted more than 49 million immigrants. This was the period of the U.S.A. described as a “melting pot”.

However, during the twentieth century, American Congress passed a series of Act and laws that limited and continue to limit the flow of immigrants in the Country. Here, we will see how the government manages immigration and especially illegal immigration.

First, we will see some facts, statistics and causes about illegal immigration. Then we will study what are the consequences of illegal immigration on the American society. In a third part, I will present you some important Acts which are voted in the past concerning immigration. To finish, we will speak about recent laws against illegal immigration, principally Mexican immigration.

I. Description

1) Definition

Illegal immigration to the United States refers to the act of moving to or settling in the United States temporarily or permanently in violation of U.S. immigration and nationality law with the intention of living or working in the United States.

As we may think, the term “immigrant” doesn’t refer to the illegal immigration. According to the Immigration and Nationality Act, “The term "alien" means any person not a citizen or national of the United States”.

The US Census Bureau equates immigrants to lawful permanent residents and classifies persons who are foreign born into these five categories:

- naturalized U.S. citizens
- lawful permanent residents (immigrants)
- temporary migrants (such as foreign students)
- humanitarian migrants (such as refugees)
- people illegally present in the United States (aliens)

As we can see, immigrants are people who are lawful residents, contrary to the people called aliens who are illegal. During this text, we will study the case of illegal aliens in the United States.

2) Statistics

Now we will see some statistics and try to quantify illegal immigration.

First, we will speak about the size of the illegal aliens’ population in the United States. This size is unknown exactly, it’s very difficult (maybe impossible) to evaluate this size because aliens don’t want to be counted and there’s no national surveys, administrative data, or other sources of information that directly provide accurate estimates of this population.

However, we can find some estimation: a study of the Pew Hispanic Center of March 2005 shows that illegal alien population reached 11 millions including 6.5 million Mexicans (57%). In September 2006 the illegal population reached about 13 million.

The U.S. total population is about 300 millions, so we can see that more than 4% of the U.S. population is illegal. The United States has one of the biggest rates of illegal aliens in the world. The majority of this population lives in California (24%) and Texas (14%).

About 80 to 85 percent of the immigration from Mexico and Central America in recent years has been illegal.

Although most undocumented migrants are young adults, there is also a sizeable childhood population. About one-sixth of the illegal population (1.7 million people) is under 18 years of age.

3) Causes

We can wonder why people want to leave their home to leave in a foreign country. In fact there are many causes to immigration. The main motivation that pushes people to immigrate is the economic situation. Difference in wage rates is a prominent factor. Poor individuals from less developed countries can have higher standards of living in developed countries than in their originating countries. Escape from poverty is a major cause for immigration.

We can see this phenomenon in the United States with the illegal immigration from Mexico. Mexican would leave their country, even illegally, to work in the U.S. and earn more money. As we know, the United States belongs to the most developed countries in the world. Unfortunately, Mexico, which is one of the poorest countries, has the U.S. for neighbor, so that can explain why so much Mexicans want to leave their country to work somewhere they can earn more money and have a better standard of living than in Mexico.

There are a lot of other factors which push a man to leave his native country and his roots; we can quote wars, diseases, natural disasters, etc. However in the case of the United States, the main cause of immigration is the difference between standards of living.

Moreover, in the case of the United States, legal immigration is very difficult and expensive, that's why a lot of people came illegally in the U.S. To become an American, you must obtain a visa which is generally expensive. There are two types of visas, temporary visa (also known as non-immigrant visa) and permanent visa (also known as immigrant visa).

Temporary visas are issued to individuals who want to spend a limited amount of time in the U.S. They are available for a variety of purposes, such as working, studying, or visiting the U.S. as a tourist. We can find more than fifteen types of temporary visas.

Permanent visas are issued to individuals who wish to settle permanently in the U.S. A person who obtains a permanent visa is granted permanent resident status and is officially known as a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR). The 3 most common ways to get a permanent visa are based on:

- An immediate family member who is a U.S. citizen or has a green card
- Employment or investment
- Winning the diversity visa lottery (also known as the green card lottery).

To immigrate legally in the U.S., you need to have family in the U.S. or to work for an American company. There's also what it's called the green card lottery but you must be lucky.

To conclude, we can say that more and more immigrants come to the United States. As we saw, become American is very difficult and expensive. That's the reason why a lot of foreign people come to the U.S. illegally, especially in the aim to escape the poverty of their native country. We can refer to Mexicans which represent more than 55% of the total illegal aliens in the United States. Now, we will see what the consequences are of this massive immigration to the American way of life and particularly what problems push the government to fight this illegal immigration.

II. Consequences and Problems

There are different points of view about the consequences of immigration. Here, we will see those which are shown by government and Americans who want to stop the flow of illegal immigrants. We will describe some problems posed by illegal immigration.

The United States of America is a nation of immigrants; indeed, the States were created by successive waves of immigrants, the firsts were Europeans. So, if the history of U.S. is a history of immigration since the fifteenth century, we can wonder why Americans, now, want to reduce the flow of immigration. The United States is become the powerful country that we know today because of the passed immigration, so, why would they stop this immigration?

1) Assimilation

One main problem caused by immigration is the assimilation of people who arrive in the country. Indeed, if someone wants to live in America, he must follow the rules of America, he must become an American citizen. By the use of the term ‘assimilation’, specialists say that people who want to live in America must learn to speak in the language of the country. In addition, they have to accept the American values, to respect the laws, etc.

The problem is that this assimilation isn’t applied as well as it could be. The melting pot is not so present nowadays in the U.S. than we can hear. Immigrants live with other immigrants and form the minorities. If we look at the biggest cities of U.S.A., we can see that each city is divided into different ethnic avenues and neighborhoods where minorities live regrouped. A famous example is Chinatown. The immigrants live into communities and try to keep the way of life they had before coming. In a sense, they try to recreate their native country in U.S.

We can also take the example of East Los Angeles. The total population of East Los Angeles is about 125,000 inhabitants, 96% are Hispanic. According to the U.S. census bureau, 31 million American citizens speak Spanish at home.

In addition, the foreign born people form ethnic minorities and a lot of them live in ghettos and poverty. That often led to delinquency, violence and each problem we know in ghettos. Still according to the U.S. census bureau, 22% of the Hispanic population lives under the poverty line. Only 32% of the Hispanic population aged 16 and older is in the civilian labor force.



Chinatown in Chicago

2) The cost of illegal aliens to American taxpayers

Illegal alien workers may increase profits for employers, but they are costly to the American taxpayer. Most illegal aliens have low educational attainment, few skills, and they work for low wages, often in the underground economy where they pay no taxes on their earnings. Because the number of illegal aliens can only be estimated, similarly the fiscal cost (government budget outlays) for those aliens can only be estimated. Today, the estimate illegal alien cost for Americans is \$70 billion.

This number is the result of:

- Public education costs: often, aliens who come to the U.S. have children and these children must go to school. So, American citizens have to pay to educate these children who often, can understand just a few words in English. English as a Second Language classes cost taxpayers billions of dollars. Furthermore, these students, because they have not the education level required, slow down all the American system of education.
- Medical expenses and social security: illegal residents come most often from countries with endemic health problems and less developed health care. Sometimes, they enter to U.S. ground with contagious diseases that had been totally or nearly eradicated by American public health system. For example: The incidence of tuberculosis in El Paso County (which has one of the highest rates of aliens in U.S.A.) is twice that of the U.S. rate.
- Criminal, justice and corrections cost: a lot of aliens are arrested every year, these arrests have a cost. Between 1999 and 2002, alien detention increased by 45 percent. Illegal aliens are judged and sometimes put in jail. States must spend money to pay the detention cost, and all the expenses bind at justice and criminality.

These three domains are the main expenses for illegal aliens in the U.S. and represent more than 50% of the total cost. Illegal aliens often work for low wage and out of the law thus they don't have to pay the Earned Income Tax Credit.

It exists others expenses like housing and food but they are not so important than the three precedent huge expenses.

In addition to these problems, we know that illegal immigrants must work illegally, so they earn a very little wage compared to lawful workers. The consequence is that employers should prefer hire this workforce because they will not give them a lot of money. This fact leads to a high level of unemployment for the lawful workforce. Fortunately, as we will see later, laws have been voted to punish the employers who hire illegal aliens and avoid this problem.

As we saw before, illegal immigration brings several consequences to the American society. In order to solve the problems quoted in the last paragraph, assimilation, cost of immigration, government try to find solutions. In the following part, we will approach the pro or anti immigration laws and acts that the American government made since the birth of the United States of America.

III. Laws concerning immigration in the history

In this part, we will go up in the history and study some important laws and acts that had been created by the U.S. Congress in the past concerning immigration. Congress has total and complete authority over immigration. Power of the President is limited to policies on refugees.

The Naturalization Act of 1790 Stipulated that “any alien, being a free white person, may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States”. It was the first Act concerning immigration in the United States. The 1790 Act also limited naturalization to persons of "good moral character"; the law required a set period of residence in the United States prior to naturalization, specifically two years in the country and one year in the state of residence when applying for citizenship. When those requirements were met, an immigrant could file a Petition for Naturalization with "any common law court of record".

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 passed by Congress in order to limit Chinese immigration. Indeed, in the decade of 1870 to 1880, 123,000 Chinese came to the U.S. and joined the 105,000 who had immigrated from 1850 to 1870 as a result of unsettled conditions in China, the availability of jobs working on railroads and the gold rush that was going on at that time in California. The Congress decided to prohibit these laborers from immigrating to the United States during 10 years. It was the first immigration law passed in the United States targeted at a specific ethnic group.

The Immigration Act of 1882, by its many updates, became more and more restrictive during the 50 years following. It denied entry to “all idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons; persons who have had one or more attacks of insanity at any time previously; persons of constitutional psychopathic inferiority; persons with chronic alcoholism; paupers; professional beggars; vagrants; persons afflicted with tuberculosis in any form or with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease; persons not comprehended within any of the foregoing excluded classes who are found to be and are certified by the examining surgeon as being mentally or physically defective, such physical defect being of a nature which may affect the ability of such alien to earn a living; persons who have been convicted of or admit having committed a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; polygamists, or persons who practice polygamy or believe in or advocate the practice of polygamy; anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States”.

The Naturalization Act of 1906 imposed to people who wanted to become American citizens to speak English. The Congress imposed a test of lecture to immigrants. They had to be capable to read at least forty words in the language.

The Immigration Act of 1924 (National Origins Act) is a United States federal law that limited the number of immigrants who could be admitted from any country to 2% of the number of people from that country who were already living in the United States in 1890, according to the Census of 1890.

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA) established the modern day US immigration system. Racial restrictions which previously existed were abolished and it created a quota system which imposes limits on a per-country basis. Eventually, it established a preference system which selected which ethnic groups were desirable immigrants and placed great importance on labor qualifications. Average immigrants' number was not supposed to exceed 270,000 per year.

Truman vetoed the McCarran-Walter Act because he regarded the bill as "un-American" and discriminatory.

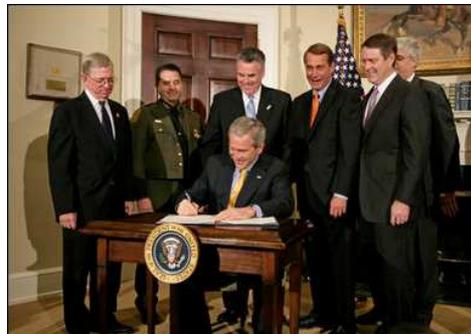
The Immigration and Naturalization Services Act of 1965 (INS) abolished the national-origin quotas of 1924. An annual limitation of 170,000 visas was established for immigrants from Eastern Hemisphere countries with no more than 20,000 per country. By 1968, the annual limitation from the Western Hemisphere was set at 120,000 immigrants. For the first time Mexican immigration was restricted.

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) focused on curtailing illegal US immigration. It legalized about 3,000,000 illegal immigrants who were already in the country. It also introduced the employer sanctions program which fines employers for hiring illegal workers.

IV. The Secure Fence Act of 2006

“This bill will help protect the American people. This bill will make our borders more secure. It is an important step toward immigration reform.”

That's what the President Bush said just before signing the Act the 26th of October 2006. (You can see the entire speech on appendix).



Before beginning to talk about the Secure Fence Act, there are some facts about President Bush immigration policy. According to him, since he took office, he has:

- More than doubled funding for border security: from \$4.6 billion in 2001 to \$10.4 billion in 2006;
- Increased the number of Border Patrol agents from about 9,000 to more than 12,000 - and by the end of 2008, he would reach the number of 18,000;
- Deployed thousands of National Guard members to assist the Border Patrol;
- Upgraded technology at the borders and added infrastructure, including new fencing and vehicle barriers;
- Apprehended and sent home more than 6 million people entering America illegally;

(This is taken in a President Bush speech).

As we can see, the illegal immigration is a major political issue for Mr Bush. That's the reason why he signed the bill. We will see what this bill is about.

1) What this act is about?

The original name of the Secure Fence Act is “An Act to establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States.

By signing the Secure Fence Act, President Bush wants to reduce the illegal immigration from Mexico. To make this possible, his objective is to secure the border by building a great security wall between the two countries and to increase the number of patrols along the border.

“By making wise use of physical barriers and deploying 21st Century technology, we can help our border patrol agents do their job and make our border more secure.”

The Secure Fence Act:

- Authorizes the construction of hundreds of miles of additional fencing along our Southern border;
- Authorizes more vehicle barriers, checkpoints, and lighting to help prevent people from entering our country illegally;
- Authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to increase the use of advanced technology like cameras, satellites, and unmanned aerial vehicles to reinforce our infrastructure at the border.

2) The wall between Mexico and the U.S.

The Secure Fence Act doesn't create the idea of a wall between the United States and Mexico. Indeed, today, a 130 kilometres' wall (about 80 miles) between the two Countries already exists in the region of San Diego. The wall separates San Diego in the United States and Tijuana in Mexico.

Currently, the border is keeping by 12,000 agents of border patrol. The United States Border Patrol (USBP) is a Federal police force. They belong to the Department of Homeland Security and they are responsible of Border Protection.

Because of the wall, immigrants are forced to cross deserts and mountains to circumvent the wall and the patrols. According to the Border patrols, they made one million arrests in 2005. Still according to them, more than 4,000 people died while trying to cross the wall since it was build.

Despite this elevated number of death, American government planes to build a fence of 1130 km (700 miles) along part of the border. We might know that the total length of the frontier between this two States is 3400 km (2100 miles). The fence will thus separate the countries on one third of the total border, as we can see on the next map.



The future fence between the U.S. and Mexico

3) Mexican reactions

The Secure Fence Act of 2006 leads to a lot of reactions in the world especially in Mexico. Mexicans have violent reaction against the wall.

Mexican President-elect Felipe Calderon said the fence was “a grave mistake” which would lead to more Mexican deaths on the border. Indeed, thousands of people have already crossed the previous wall; that shows that, even if there is wall and patrols, even if there is a high rate of death, immigrants passed through the protections. Mexicans and people against the wall say: if a little wall makes deaths, a high length wall will multiply the number of deaths, but in no case it will prevent the Mexican to cross it.

“I’m sure that the United States is committing a grave mistake in building this fence.” Said outgoing Mexican President Vicente Fox, he called the plans "shameful". He compares it to the Berlin wall. “Humanity has made a great mistake by building the Berlin wall and the U.S. is going to make the same mistake.” Moreover we can notice that the history shows that walls had never bring any solution.

Conclusion

Immigration is a major political issue in the United States. As we have seen, since they were created, the U.S. is the country which welcomes most immigrants in the world. Those immigrants include illegal immigration; indeed, more than 4% of the total U.S. population lives illegally. This illegal immigration brings some problems for the American society, like assimilation and costs of illegal workers for lawful citizen. For these reasons, a lot of Acts, which are sensed to regulate the immigration flow, are voted by Congress since The Naturalization Act of 1790. The last Act was signed by President Bush the 26th of October 2006. It's called Secure Fence Act of 2006 and has for objective to build a 700 miles' fence along the Mexican border in order to stop Mexican immigration. Mr. Bush would also authorize the use of advances technology like cameras, satellites, and increase the number of patrol agents. Many people are opposed to the act because it will increase the number of death along the frontier.

In one hand, Mr Bush proposes to regularize illegal immigrants if they accept to go to war for the United States, and on the other hand, he want to close the frontier with Mexico. In the same time he wants to stop immigration by build the wall and he attracts them to go to war. This is, in a sense, quite paradoxical.

In addition, we can conclude by saying that he doesn't have yet enough money to pay the amazing price of his project when he signs the bill...

Sources

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President Bush Signs Secure Fence Act

The Roosevelt Room
10/26/06 - 9:34 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. Thanks. Please be seated. I'm pleased that you all are here to witness the signature of the Secure Fence Act of 2006. This bill will help protect the American people. This bill will make our borders more secure. It is an important step toward immigration reform.

I want to thank the members of Congress for their work on this important piece of legislation. I welcome you here to the White House. I'm looking forward to signing this bill.

I appreciate the Vice President joining us today. I thank the Deputy Secretary, Michael Jackson, of the Department of Homeland Security. Rob Portman -- he happens to be the Director of OMB. I want to thank Ralph Basham, who is the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. David Aguilar is the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol.

I appreciate the fact that Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has joined us, as well as House Majority Leader John Boehner. I appreciate them coming in from their respective states as I sign this piece of legislation. I want to thank Congressman Peter King, who's the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee in the House of Representatives. I appreciate you being here, Peter.

Ours is a nation of immigrants. We're also a nation of law. Unfortunately, the United States has not been in complete control of its borders for decades and, therefore, illegal immigration has been on the rise. We have a responsibility to address these challenges. We have a responsibility to enforce our laws. We have a responsibility to secure our borders. We take this responsibility seriously.

Earlier this year, I addressed the nation from the Oval Office. I laid out our strategy for immigration reform. Part of that strategy begins with securing the border. Since I took office we have more than doubled funding for border security -- from \$4.6 billion in 2001 to \$10.4 billion this year. We've increased the number of Border Patrol agents from about 9,000 to more than 12,000, and by the end of 2008, we will have doubled the number of Border Patrol agents during my presidency.

We've deployed thousands of National Guard members to assist the Border Patrol. We've upgraded technology at our borders. We've added infrastructure, including new fencing and vehicle barriers. We're adding thousands of new beds in our detention facilities so we can continue working to end catch and release at our southern border. During the course of my administration we have apprehended and sent home more 6 million people entering our country illegally. And I thank the Border Patrol for their hard work.

The Secure Fence Act builds on this progress. The bill authorizes the construction of hundreds of miles of additional fencing along our southern border. The bill authorizes more vehicle barriers, checkpoints and lighting to help prevent people from entering our country illegally. The bill authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to increase the use of advanced

technology, like cameras and satellites and unmanned aerial vehicles to reinforce our infrastructure at the border. We're modernizing the southern border of the United States so we can assure the American people we're doing our job of securing the border. By making wise use of physical barriers and deploying 21st century technology we're helping our Border Patrol agents do their job.

The Secure Fence Act is part of our efforts to reform our immigration system. We have more to do. A meaningful immigration reform means that we must enforce our immigration laws in the United States. It is against the law to hire someone who is here illegally. We fully understand that most businesses want to obey that law, but they cannot verify the legal status of their employees because of widespread document fraud. So we're creating a better system for verifying documents and work eligibility, and in the meantime, holding people to account for breaking the law.

We must reduce pressure on our border by creating a temporary worker plan. Willing workers ought to be matched with willing employers to do jobs Americans are not doing for a temporary -- on a temporary basis.

We must face the reality that millions of illegal immigrants are already here. They should not be given an automatic path to citizenship; that is amnesty. I oppose amnesty. There is a rational middle ground between granting an automatic pass to citizenship for every illegal immigrant and a program of mass deportation. And I look forward to working with Congress to find that middle ground.

The bill I'm about to sign is an important step in our nation's efforts to secure our border and reform our immigration system. I thank the members of Congress for joining me as I sign the Secure Fence Act of 2006.

(The bill is signed.)

END 9:40 A.M. EDT

One Hundred Ninth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and six*

An Act

To establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders
of the United States.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Secure Fence Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. ACHIEVING OPERATIONAL CONTROL ON THE BORDER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take all actions the Secretary determines necessary and appropriate to achieve and maintain operational control over the entire international land and maritime borders of the United States, to include the following—

(1) systematic surveillance of the international land and maritime borders of the United States through more effective use of personnel and technology, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, ground-based sensors, satellites, radar coverage, and cameras; and

(2) physical infrastructure enhancements to prevent unlawful entry by aliens into the United States and facilitate access to the international land and maritime borders by United States Customs and Border Protection, such as additional checkpoints, all weather access roads, and vehicle barriers.

(b) **OPERATIONAL CONTROL DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “operational control” means the prevention of all unlawful entries into the United States, including entries by terrorists, other unlawful aliens, instruments of terrorism, narcotics, and other contraband.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress made toward achieving and maintaining operational control over the entire international land and maritime borders of the United States in accordance with this section.

**SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION OF FENCING AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS
IN BORDER AREA FROM PACIFIC OCEAN TO GULF OF
MEXICO.**

Section 102(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking “NEAR SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) SECURITY FEATURES.—

“(A) REINFORCED FENCING.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide for least 2 layers of reinforced fencing, the installation of additional physical barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors—

“(i) extending from 10 miles west of the Tecate, California, port of entry to 10 miles east of the Tecate, California, port of entry;

“(ii) extending from 10 miles west of the Calexico, California, port of entry to 5 miles east of the Douglas, Arizona, port of entry;

“(iii) extending from 5 miles west of the Columbus, New Mexico, port of entry to 10 miles east of El Paso, Texas;

“(iv) extending from 5 miles northwest of the Del Rio, Texas, port of entry to 5 miles southeast of the Eagle Pass, Texas, port of entry; and

“(v) extending 15 miles northwest of the Laredo, Texas, port of entry to the Brownsville, Texas, port of entry.

“(B) PRIORITY AREAS.—With respect to the border described—

“(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall ensure that an interlocking surveillance camera system is installed along such area by May 30, 2007, and that fence construction is completed by May 30, 2008; and

“(ii) in subparagraph (A)(v), the Secretary shall ensure that fence construction from 15 miles northwest of the Laredo, Texas, port of entry to 15 southeast of the Laredo, Texas, port of entry is completed by December 31, 2008.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—If the topography of a specific area has an elevation grade that exceeds 10 percent, the Secretary may use other means to secure such area, including the use of surveillance and barrier tools.”.

SEC. 4. NORTHERN BORDER STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct a study on the feasibility of a state-of-the-art infrastructure security system along the northern international land and maritime border of the United States and shall include in the study—

- (1) the necessity of implementing such a system;
- (2) the feasibility of implementing such a system; and
- (3) the economic impact implementing such a system will have along the northern border.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

**SEC. 5. EVALUATION AND REPORT RELATING TO CUSTOMS AUTHORITY
TO STOP CERTAIN FLEEING VEHICLES.**

(a) **EVALUATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) evaluate the authority of personnel of United States Customs and Border Protection to stop vehicles that enter the United States illegally and refuse to stop when ordered to do so by such personnel, compare such Customs authority with the authority of the Coast Guard to stop vessels under section 637 of title 14, United States Code, and make an assessment as to whether such Customs authority should be expanded;

(2) review the equipment and technology available to United States Customs and Border Protection personnel to stop vehicles described in paragraph (1) and make an assessment as to whether or not better equipment or technology is available or should be developed; and

(3) evaluate the training provided to United States Customs and Border Protection personnel to stop vehicles described in paragraph (1).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains the results of the evaluation conducted under subsection (a).

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*