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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 26, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN NEWHOUSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the President for speaking directly to the American people on immigration last night in a town hall on Telemundo and on MSNBC. He was very clear that he will comply with the dictates of the judicial branch, even as he fights a Federal judge's temporary injunction in the courts and is prepared to appeal those rulings all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

The President will follow the law—as he has been doing—and comply with the injunction.

But let me be clear to my Republican friends and to the American families impacted—for now—by the court's action. Nothing about the injunction compels the President to deport anyone he has identified as a low priority for enforcement.

No matter how many lawsuits are filed, how many symbolic votes are held in Congress, or how many Federal agencies are shut down, there is nothing the Republican Party can do to force the President of the United States to deport DREAMers or go after the parents of U.S. citizens if they have no criminal record and have lived here for a while. And the Republicans know there is nothing they can do to force the President to deport 5 million people that he has said he is going to protect—nothing.

For years, Congress has only provided enough funding to deport 4 percent of the total undocumented population, or 400,000 people a year. Clearly, we in Congress know that only a small percentage of people will be targeted by our limited enforcement resources because that is the law that we here in Congress made.

For all the talk about a rogue or imperial President, he is actually doing the job we asked him to do—to spend the limited enforcement resources we appropriated on doing what? Protecting the homeland by deporting the worst of the worst, not on DREAMers, not on the parents of U.S. citizens who have strong ties to this country and decades with no criminal background. The DACA program for DREAMers announced in 2012 is still in place and renewals are happening right now, as we speak. It is 640,000 strong.

So, under the enforcement priorities and under the DACA program, it is clear to me—and I want to make it clear to everyone at home—that the

President has no plans to deport DREAMers or the parents of U.S. citizens who have never been involved in crime.

Now, I know firsthand about numerous efforts to negotiate across the aisle—that the majority of our country and the majority of the Republican Party would like to have a functioning legal immigration system. But the impression the Republican Party is leaving with the American people—the only solution the Republicans are offering—is that they demand the deportation of DREAMers and the deportation of the parents of 5 million American citizens who would be protected—and continued to be protected—under the President's executive actions.

This is what my colleagues fail to appreciate when they stand alongside the hard-liners and opponents of legal immigration: in their zeal to support non-citizens, Republicans are hurting themselves with citizens.

In my district in Chicago, just like the rest of the country, there is no caste system where people who were born in the U.S. never mix with people who weren't born here. There are no differences between the people who came with a visa, the people who overstayed a visa, the people who never had a visa to begin with, and people who were born U.S. citizens.

When we celebrate the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving, believe it or not, we all sit at the same table. The undocumented are a part of our families, live in our neighborhoods, attend our churches, and are in classrooms with our children.

What the Republican Party fails to see is that when they call for the deportation of DREAMers and long-term residents, they are calling for the deportation of our family members, our neighbors, and my children's classmates.

Don't forget: most Latinos in America are not immigrants but are U.S.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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