

**TRENDING:** [2024 ELECTIONS](#) [SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE](#) [THE HILL ON NEWSNATION](#) [SPONSO](#)

---

**OPINION > CONGRESS BLOG**

**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL**

# There's reason for hope on immigration and border reforms

BY JENNIE MURRAY, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 07/12/23 4:30 PM ET

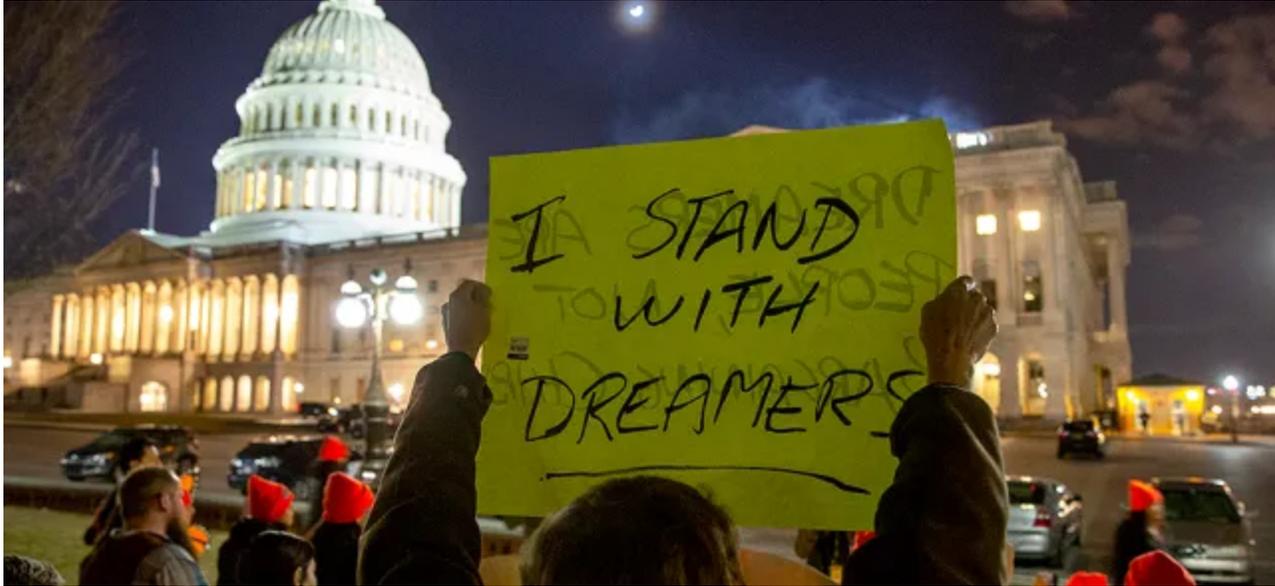
---

Share

Tweet



More



Greg Nash

A decade ago, the Senate passed much-needed immigration reforms and did it in strongly bipartisan fashion: 14 Republicans joined 54 Democrats in the 68-32 vote. It was a moment of hope and celebration for immigration advocates.

The bill would have strengthened border security, created a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants including Dreamers (and rendered Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals no longer necessary) and created a legalization path for farmworkers, among many other provisions.

---

ADVERTISEMENT

Even though we often hear about the polarized ends of the spectrum when it comes to immigration, the majority of Americans want solutions. I'm hearing it from people across the country — from evangelical women working to welcome their new Afghan neighbors who fought alongside our military to business owners struggling to stay afloat because of severe labor shortages — who agree: We need to ensure that we have legal immigration channels that allow all of us to thrive.

Polling, too, shows that immigration reforms remain urgent — and possible. In In a [May survey](#), 80 percent of respondents, including self-identified conservatives, expressed support for Republicans and Democrats working together to pass “reforms that address labor shortages and inflation, and protect people already here and contributing.” Earlier polling showed similarly strong support for cooperation to address specific challenges including the border and the uncertainty for Dreamers, farmers and farmworkers, and others who have long been working here and are part of our communities.



### Here's What A Walk-In Shower Should Cost

LongShowers.com - Sponsored

[Learn more](#)

Many of the same groups the 2013 bill would have helped, in other words. And reforms would still help the economy and individual Americans' wallets. As Douglas Holtz-Eakin of the American Action Forum [notes](#), were the 2013 bill to pass today, we'd see a boost in the next 10 years of nearly \$3 trillion to our GDP, employment would expand and budget deficits would drop by almost \$300 billion. Targeted reforms would move us in that same beneficial direction.

find shelter here.

In the 10 years since immigration reforms passed the Senate but stalled in the House, we've also come to see that the challenges of our outdated immigration system only compound over time.

---

ADVERTISEMENT

---

Border challenges demonstrate the shortcomings of policies that offer extremely limited legal-immigration pathways. Immigration-related backlogs are up 200 percent, from 3 million pending applications in 2013 to nearly 9 million by the end of 2022. These backlogs hamstring employers and the economy, resulting in negative repercussions for Americans.

At the same time, labor shortages and other labor challenges are widespread. The number of legal visas issued by the State Department in 2022 was still 35 percent lower than in 2016, the most recent high. The U.S. has hundreds of thousands fewer immigrants today than it likely would have without the pandemic or the previous administration's restrictive policies. This has exacerbated workforce shortages in agriculture, hospitality, construction and other key industries.

Dreamers and their schools, employers and communities still wait for certainty. And further demographic challenges await as Americans' average age increases.

---

ADVERTISEMENT

---

In 2013 real leaders from both parties came together. They negotiated openly, transparently and in a spirit of compromise, always holding up what was necessary and what was possible. These Republicans and Democrats listened to Americans who wanted solutions — including faith, law enforcement and business leaders.

Who will the leaders be today? Let's start with signs of hope in the House: Recently, Republicans and Democrats have worked together to introduce [the Dignity Act](#) and [reintroduce the Dream and Promise Act](#). These bills offer constructive solutions that represent American voter values and priorities: safety, order, human dignity, welcome and a stronger economy. And their spirit of real solutions is a breath of fresh air after 10 years of stagnation.

A remarkable majority of Americans are ready to support leaders, from both parties, who bring solutions to the table. We need, and Americans support, solutions-focused leaders as much as ever.

---

ADVERTISEMENT

---

Copyright 2023 Nexstar Media Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

[SHARE](#)[TWEET](#)[MORE](#)

---

## SPONSORED CONTENT

[Privacy Policy](#)

### How Long Does \$1 Million Last After 60?

[Fisher Investments](#) | Sponsored

### Locate Almost Anyone By Entering Their Name (This Is Addicting!)

[TruthFinder](#) | Sponsored

### Vanguard vs. Fidelity vs. Schwab

[SmartAsset](#) | Sponsored

### Here is the real cost of full mouth dental implants in 2023

[Seekify](#) | Sponsored

### Malden: These New \$250/Month Senior Living Apartments Are Stunning

[Senior Apartments](#) | Sponsored

### Do You Know What Plaque Psoriasis Is? (Take A Look)

[Plaque Psoriasis](#) | Sponsored

### Plastic Surgeon Reveals At-Home Method To Get Rid Of Sagging Skin

[DERMAL](#) | Sponsored

### This Is The Highest Rated Hearing Aid In The US

[hear.com](#) | Sponsored

### Master the Steps to Grow Your Career as a CFO

## Accounts.

[Smartconsumerinsider.com](#) | Sponsored

### **The Killer New Volvo XC40: The Ultimate Vehicle For Seniors (Especially At These Prices)**

[Senior Volvo Deals](#) | Sponsored

### **Which Toothpaste Whitens Teeth Better Instantly - You Might Be Surprised**

[Smartconsumerinsider.com](#) | Sponsored

### **Killer New Hyundai Is Perfect For Seniors (Take A Peek At Prices)**

[Hyundai Deals](#) | Sponsored

### **These 2 Vegetables Will Kill Your Belly And Arm Fat Overnight!**

[Health & Welfare](#) | Sponsored

### **Here Are 25 of the Coolest Gits For This 2024**

[Cool Gadgets](#) | Sponsored

### **This Drugstore Wrinkle Cream Sold Out At Target (In 2 Days)**

[BrunchesNCrunches](#) | Sponsored

### **Here Are 23 Of The Coolest Gifts For 2023**

[Best Tech Trend](#) | Sponsored

## More Congress Blog News



## The F-35 alternate engine should be buried forever

**CONGRESS BLOG** / 12 HOURS AGO



## The Credit Card Competition Act will help support a stronger, more competitive free market

**CONGRESS BLOG** / 13 HOURS AGO



## Government shutdowns are not deficit reduction devices

**CONGRESS BLOG** / 16 HOURS AGO



## For future economic growth, invest in care

**CONGRESS BLOG** / 2 DAYS AGO

[See All](#)

Video/Hill.TV



**Rising: November 13, 2023**

RISING / 19 HOURS AGO



**Rising: November 10, 2023**



## Rising: November 9, 2023

THE HILL TV / 5 DAYS AGO

[See all Hill.TV](#)

[See all Video](#)

## Top Stories



## McConnell backs Speaker's spending proposal despite lack of Ukraine money

SENATE / 46 MINS AGO



### Morning Report — Democrats open to Speaker's funding fallback

MORNING REPORT / 16 MINS AGO



### 4 alternative presidential candidates — and how they might impact the 2024 race

CAMPAIGN / 46 MINS AGO

[See All](#)

---

## Most Popular

---

- 1 House Republicans are jumping off the sinking ship**
- 2 Liz Cheney says RNC chair 'collaborating' with Trump's 'Nazi ...**
- 3 After Ohio's legalization vote, here's where marijuana is — and isn't ...**
- 4 Trump will file for mistrial in NY fraud case 'very soon,' attorney says**
- 5 GOP leaders aim to pass funding bill with help from Democrats amid conservative ...**



## What Do You Think?

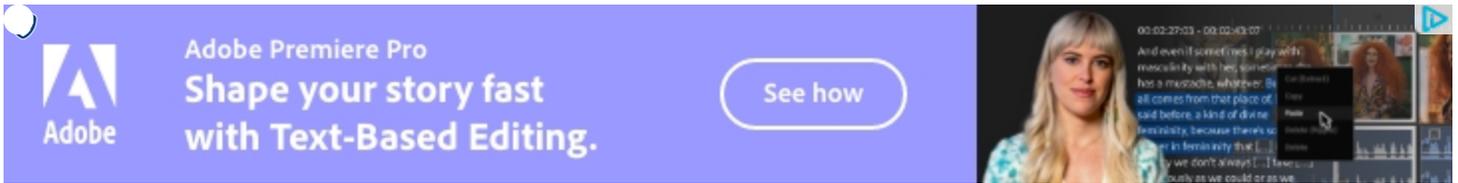


**How likely do you think it is that former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley will ultimately prove to be the most viable Trump alternative in the 2024 Republican primary?**

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not at all likely
- Other / No opinion

\* By clicking "NEXT" you agree to the following: We use cookies to collect your survey answers for market research and tailored advertising. If you would like to continue with this survey, please read and agree to the [CivicScience Privacy Policy and Terms of Service](#)

NEXT \*



Adobe  
 Adobe Premiere Pro  
 Shape your story fast  
 with Text-Based Editing.  
 See how

00:02:27:03 - 00:02:43:07  
 And even if sometimes I play with  
 masculinity with her, sometimes  
 has a masculine, whatever. It  
 all comes from that place of  
 laid before, a kind of divine  
 responsibility, because there's so  
 much in femininity that I  
 we don't always... I keep  
 as quickly as we could or as we

**DON'T MISS A BRIEF.  
 SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY EMAIL.**

**Send**

**THE  
 HILL**

**Resources**

**THE HILL APPS**

**Other Areas**

**GALLERIES**

## Contributors

**SUBMIT OPINION CONTENT**

**Follow Us On**



**Get the App**



**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**PRIVACY POLICY**

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**CONTACT**

**ADVERTISE**

**SUBSCRIBE TO PUSH NOTIFICATIONS**

**NEWSNATION**

**BESTREVIEWS**

**NEXSTAR DIGITAL**

**JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY**

**DO NOT SELL OR SHARE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION**

THE HILL 1625 K STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON DC 20006 | 202-628-8500 TEL | 202-628-8503 FAX

© 1998 - 2023 NEXSTAR MEDIA INC. | ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.