

“3D” Approach to Immigration & Border Security

A “3D” approach to security and immigration policy reform looks first to Development and Diplomatic solutions, holding Defense as a last resort. Addressing the root causes of increasing immigration to the U.S. requires a multi-dimensional “3D” approach. 3D prioritizes the role and voices of border people and communities on security issues emphasizing local knowledge and experience in policy development.

Development: Market-Based Approaches for Preventing and Managing Migration

- **Stabilize ‘Migrant-Producing’ Communities and Regions:** Modest investments in education, housing, and healthcare would prevent a significant proportion of economic immigrants. Encourage pilot projects in economic development to determine which immigration prevention programs are most effective to develop evidence-based policies.
- **Support Banking and Credit Reform:** Encourage fiscal reform in banking and finance in migrant-producing countries responsive to broadening access to credit and supporting economic development opportunities across society from community-based banking to mortgage financing.
- **Link Worker Visas to Business Needs and Community Support:** Support short-term worker visas ensuring labor rights protections, portability of visas from job to job and creating provisions for earned right to residency and citizenship.
- **Create Private Migrant Sponsorship Programs:** As in Canada and European countries, allow citizens, legal resident families, religious or community organizations to take responsibility for providing immigrants with accommodation, legal and emotional support.

Diplomacy: Good Governance, Justice and Civil Society

- **Begin Robust Diplomatic Efforts to Address Root Causes of Immigration:** Immigration is one symptom of faulty economic systems. Support State Department and civil society programs for U.S., Mexican and Central/South American labor groups and Chambers of Commerce to encourage accountable and respectable forums of labor and commerce and to effectively address root causes.
- **Critically Review and Reform NAFTA:** Current trade policies allow for free movement of capital and goods, but not people. NAFTA has produced unanticipated negative effects that motivate individuals to leave their communities and to seek work in the U.S. NAFTA should be reviewed and reformed so that it does not encourage the erosion of communities and industries. Particular attention should be given to correcting negative effects on Mexican family-based agriculture.
- **Reform Legal Structures in Accord with Due Process Principles:** The current legal immigration process is confusing and filled with gaps. Reform immigration law to ensure open hearings, transparency in charges, access to counsel and increasing access to family reunification visas.

Defense: Principled Counter-Terrorism

- **Support Just Community Policing:** Counter-terrorism requires winning hearts and minds in border communities. Reduce reliance on detention and residence raids and use of local law enforcement policing immigration law. Ensure protection of human rights in policing practices, as respectful community relations encourages people to assist in identifying suspicious people or activities.
- **Distinguish between Economic and Criminal Threats:** Criminalization of economic migrants needlessly dilutes border agent’s efforts to find people who pose a real criminal or terrorist threat. Economic immigrants come to live the American Dream, criminals and terrorists come to destroy the American Dream. Focus border security on human and drug traffickers and national security risks rather than casting a wide net for economic immigrants. Border security requires a legal, regulated flow of necessary workers to the United States and infrastructure investments at ports-of-entry.