



IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER

PRESS RELEASE

January 14, 2009

Immigration Policy and the Department of Homeland Security: Questions and Answers for the Confirmation Hearing of Janet Napolitano

Washington, DC—*Immigration Policy Center (IPC) Director Angela Kelley issued the following statement in anticipation of the upcoming confirmation hearing of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).*

We eagerly await tomorrow's confirmation hearing of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. As the governor of a border state, Napolitano has been in the eye of the immigration storm and proven that she is capable of managing the policy and politics of an enormously complicated and emotional issue. While the appointment comes with tremendous responsibilities beyond immigration services and enforcement, the confirmation hearing provides an important opportunity to hear the Governor's views on the wide range of immigration challenges facing the nation, and her vision for how DHS will address those challenges. At her hearing we hope Governor Napolitano discusses the following issues:

- **Immigration Enforcement:** Since 1993, the annual budget of the U.S. Border Patrol has more than quintupled to roughly \$1.9 billion. Meanwhile, the number of undocumented immigrants in the United States has tripled to approximately 12 million. At the same time, the Bush administration has pursued aggressive enforcement tactics ranging from large-scale, indiscriminate workplace and residential raids to expansive enforcement agreements with state and local police departments, resulting in demonstrable harm to numerous communities. What is Governor Napolitano's vision for effective and humane enforcement? What priorities and practices flow from that vision?
- **Undocumented Immigration:** Of the roughly 12 million people now residing in the United States without legal status, about a third have lived here for more than a decade. Approximately 1.8 million are children, and another 3.1 million native-born, U.S.-citizen children have at least one undocumented parent. What practical and reasonable solutions to undocumented immigration would Governor Napolitano recommend?
- **Employment Verification:** The Bush Administration has pushed to expand an Employment Eligibility Verification System (EEVS) known as E-Verify. Experience with the program on even a small scale reveals serious problems, including database errors resulting in legal immigrants and U.S. citizens being denied work, high costs for small businesses, and misuse of the system by some employers. Many experts agree that

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without comprehensive immigration reform, E-Verify will not resolve the problem of undocumented immigration. As DHS Secretary, how would Governor Napolitano recommend achieving an effective and workable system that safeguards U.S. workers from abuse, identity theft, and database errors that deny employment to work-authorized individuals?

- **Services:** DHS's Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is notorious for providing poor customer service and permitting significant backlogs to develop while charging increasingly high fees. How will Governor Napolitano reduce administrative delays and backlogs of applications for U.S. citizenship, legal permanent residence, and other immigration benefits, and improve USCIS's ability to provide timely and consistent service?

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