

38. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE
DREIER OF CALIFORNIA, OR
HIS DESIGNEE, DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES:

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1950, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY Mr. Dreier & Mr. Stenholm

Strike section 731 (page 199, line 22 through page 204, line 10) and insert the following:

1 SEC. 731. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MIGRATION
2 ISSUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
3 MEXICO.

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) During President Bush's first meeting with
6 President Fox in Guanajuato, Mexico, the Presi-
7 dents stated in the Joint Communique of February
8 16, 2001 that "we are instructing our Governments
9 to engage, at the earliest opportunity, in formal high
10 level negotiations aimed at achieving short and long-
11 term agreements that will allow us to constructively
12 address migration and labor issues between our two
13 countries."

14 (2) During President Fox's official visit to
15 Washington, D.C., the Joint Statement of Sep-
16 tember 6, 2001, summarized the meeting as follows:
17 "The Presidents reviewed the progress made by our
18 joint working group on migration chaired by Secre-
19 taries Powell, CastaZeda, and Creel and Attorney
20 General Ashcroft and noted this represented the

1 most fruitful and frank dialogue we have ever had
2 on a subject so important to both nations. They
3 praised implementation of the border safety initia-
4 tive, and recognized that migration-related issues are
5 deeply felt by our publics and vital to our prosperity,
6 well-being, and the kind of societies we want to
7 build. They renewed their commitment to forging
8 new and realistic approaches to migration to ensure
9 it is safe, orderly, legal and dignified, and agreed on
10 the framework within which this ongoing effort is
11 based. This includes: matching willing workers with
12 willing employers; serving the social and economic
13 needs of both countries; respecting the human dig-
14 nity of all migrants, regardless of their status; recog-
15 nizing the contribution migrants make to enriching
16 both societies; shared responsibility for ensuring mi-
17 gration takes place through safe and legal channels.
18 Both stressed their commitment to continue our dis-
19 cussions, instructing the high-level working group to
20 reach mutually satisfactory results on border safety,
21 a temporary worker program and the status of un-
22 documented Mexicans in the United States. They re-
23 quested that the working group provide them pro-
24 posals with respect to these issues as soon as pos-
25 sible. The Presidents recognized that this is an ex-

1 traordinarily challenging area of public policy, and
2 that it is critical to address the issue in a timely
3 manner and with appropriate thoroughness and
4 depth.”.

5 (3) On September 7, 2001, during President
6 Fox’s historic State Visit to Washington, the United
7 States and Mexico issued a joint statement instruct-
8 ing our cabinet-level working group to provide us
9 with specific proposals to forge a new and realistic
10 framework that will ensure a safe, legal, orderly, and
11 dignified migration flow between our countries. We
12 have today agreed that our Cabinet level migration
13 group should continue the work we charged it with
14 in Guanajuato and Washington.

15 (4) When the Presidents met in Monterrey,
16 Mexico, the Presidents stated in a Joint Statement
17 on March 22, 2002, as follows: “Slightly more than
18 one year ago, in Guanajuato, we talked about migra-
19 tion as one of the major ties that join our societies.
20 We launched then the frankest and most productive
21 dialogue our countries have ever had on this impor-
22 tant and challenging subject. Those talks have con-
23 tinued over the past year, and have yielded a clearer
24 assessment of the scope and nature of this issue.

1 This bond between our nations can render countless
2 benefits to our respective economies and families.

3 (5) Over the past year, important progress has
4 been made to enhance migrant safety and particu-
5 larly in saving lives by discouraging and reducing il-
6 legal crossings in dangerous terrain.

7 (6) At the conclusion of the Mexico-United
8 States Binational Commission (BNC) meeting in
9 Mexico City in November 2002, Secretary of State
10 Powell's press conference was summarized by the
11 State Department as follows: The BNC's migration
12 working group "affirmed our strong commitment to
13 advancing our bilateral migration agenda," he
14 stressed, adding that "there should be no doubt in
15 anyone's mind that this is a priority for President
16 Bush, just as it is a priority for [Mexican] President
17 [Vicente] Fox."

18 (7) Secretary Powell said no schedule had been
19 established for a migration accord, but he confirmed
20 that the United States and Mexico want to come up
21 with a series of migration initiatives over the course
22 of the next six months to a year.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
24 Congress that—

1 (1) that the United States and Mexico should
2 as soon as is practicable commence negotiations in
3 an attempt to reach a migration accord that is as
4 comprehensive as possible and which addresses the
5 key issues of concern for both nations; and

6 (2) that as part of any migration agreement be-
7 tween the United States and Mexico, the issues of
8 the extradition of violent criminals and law enforce-
9 ment cooperation between the two nations be ad-
10 dressed.