

Senator Rand Paul's "Trust but Verify" Border Security Amendment

Senator Rand Paul's "Trust but Verify" Amendment guarantees that Congress writes and enforces a border security blueprint rather than asking the Department of Homeland Security to come up with a plan. The American people should not rely on bureaucrats or a Commission to enforce border security. The Paul Amendment mandates a vote by Congress every year, for 5 years, on whether or not the border is secure. If the border is not secure, then the processing of undocumented immigrants stops until it is verified by a vote of Congress.

- **Congressional Votes** - The Paul amendment would make immigration reform contingent on Congress voting to certify that the border is secure by annual votes of both the House and the Senate.
- **Triggers** - Triggers require Congress to vote on every year whether the border is secure as measured by specific criteria, such as:
 - Requiring a double-layered fence be completed in five years and that every year sufficient progress is made to complete that promise, with specific miles-per-year requirements;
 - Completion of an effective exit and entry program at all points of entry that tracks visa holders;
 - Progress on reaching the goal of 95% effective capture of illegal entrants; and,
 - 100% incarceration until trial for newly-captured illegal entrants and overstays.
 - New undocumented immigrant numbers have been reduced to a negligible level as measured by the U.S. Census and the Department of Homeland Security.
- **Report** - The Department of Homeland Security must produce an annual report on border security and progress toward completion of the double layered fence, as well as verifiable metrics. This report will trigger the annual Congressional vote. The Inspector General's office will review report and provide analysis to Congress.
- **Border States** - Governors of Border States are allowed and encouraged to submit a report and testify about improvements to border security.
- **Immigration Conditional on Secure Border** - Makes immigration status dependent on congressional votes on the border being increasingly secure. Only 2 million RPI applications may be approved in a given year provided that passage of a Joint Resolution verifying that the border is secure. If a Joint Resolution is not passed, then no more RPI applications shall be approved.
- **Added Border Security Protections** – Additional provisions to strengthen security
 - A Student Visa National Security Registration system is created to add increased security screening of students coming from countries known to be incubators of extremism and exporters of international terrorism.
 - Enhanced checks of status, location, and activities of students here on visas.
 - Enhanced screening of individuals petitioning for asylum and refugee status.