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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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Dear Colleague:

I write to invite you to cosponsor a bill, the *Defund Amnesty Act*, to withhold any federal funds that would be used to implement the President's unilateral executive order granting amnesty to approximately 5 million people living illegally in the United States.

This bill would prohibit the use of funds appropriated by Congress, regardless of the source or department, that would be used in furtherance of President Obama's executive order issued on November 21, 2014 entitled, "Modernizing and Streamlining the U.S. Immigration Visa System for the 21st Century"—or any successor memorandum. This executive order would include changes to border security, status of persons currently living in the United States unlawfully, and future legal immigration policy—all of which are directly under the purview of Congress, not the Executive Branch. More specifically, President Obama outlined plans to defer deportation of unlawful residents, release individuals detained for illegally crossing the U.S. border, issue work permits for individuals in the country illegally, and other forms of amnesty.

Democracy in this country was built on the foundation of a three branch federal government. Our Founding Fathers saw the importance of checks and balances to prevent any branch from becoming all powerful and exceeding its constitutional authority.

Further, the Constitution specifically grants all lawmaking authority to Congress, and gives the Executive Branch the role of executing the laws passed, "taking care that the laws be faithfully executed." The legislative process requires compromise, allows for multiple amendment opportunities, and includes buy in from the general public—none of which are included in the process when one person in the Executive Branch takes unilateral action.

President Obama's overreach in granting amnesty leaves Congress with no choice but to exercise the power of the purse to restore the federal government to one of balance, within the confines of the Constitution. Inaction at this point would set a dangerous precedent for America's future.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, or if you have additional questions, please contact Jaclyn Louis at Jaclyn.Louis@mail.house.gov in my office.

Respectfully,


Tom Marino
Member of Congress