



CBS NEWS POLL
For release: Thursday, June 28, 2007
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IMMIGRATION
June 26-27, 2007

On the eve of today's Senate vote, half of Americans hadn't heard enough about the immigration reform bill that was defeated in the Senate today to say whether it should have been passed or not. However, just 13% of Americans thought Congress should have passed it. Nearly three times as many, 35%, thought it should not pass. Interviewing was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, before the bill was defeated in the Senate.

IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL

Congress should pass	13%
Congress should not pass	35
Haven't heard enough to say	51

Republicans and Independents were most widely against the bill - 40% of each group thought it should not pass. 26% of Democrats were also against it, and just 16% of them supported it.

Overall, two thirds of Americans think that given a choice, illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the U.S. for at least two years should be offered a chance to keep their jobs and apply for legal status, while 28% think they should be deported.

Opponents of the bill criticized it for providing "amnesty" to illegal immigrants. However, many Americans who oppose the bill support in principle the idea of finding a means for illegal immigrants who have been in the country to stay. Even among the bill's opponents, 51% think that illegal immigrants should be offered a chance to stay in the U.S. 43% think they should be deported.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN U.S. FOR 2 YEARS SHOULD:

	All	Support bill	Oppose bill
Be allowed to stay	65%	81%	51%
Be deported	28	16	43

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 505 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone June 26-27, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

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q69 Congress is still working on passing a bill dealing with illegal immigration. Based on what you've heard or read about the debate over this legislation, do you think Congress should pass the bill as it stands now, should Congress not pass it, or haven't you heard enough to say?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Should pass bill	13	15	16	7
Should not pass bill	35	40	26	40
Haven't heard enough to say	51	42	57	51
DK/NA	1	3	1	2

q74 If you had to choose, what do you think should happen to most ILLEGAL immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years: They should be given a chance to keep their jobs and apply for legal status, OR they should be deported back to their native country?

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					%
Offered a chance to keep their jobs	65	50	72	67	62
Deported	28	41	23	24	33
DK/NA	7	9	5	9	5

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	505	
Total Republicans	141	130
Total Democrats	191	202
Total Independents	173	173