



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2007

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Congressman Heath Shuler to Senate: No Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler joined with several fellow members of Congress today to urge the Senate to resist attempts to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants.

“This is an issue that Democrats and Republicans should stand together on,” said Rep. Shuler. “We should stand for the rule of law and what is right. We cannot, we must not, and we should not reward those who have broken the law.”

“It is unfair to those who have gone through and are continuing to go through the process of legal immigration to grant amnesty and citizenship to those who have entered our country illegally,” Rep. Shuler continued.

Published reports have indicated that members of the Senate are close to introducing an immigration bill that will contain amnesty for the 12 to 20 million illegal immigrants now in the United States.

Several of the Representatives present at today's press conference have sent an open letter to Senators urging them to reject any such legislation.

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee and main author of the letter, said, “We are here today to send a signal to the Senate that if they put forward this plan – we will call it what it is, ‘amnesty.’ Amnesty puts lawbreakers ahead of those who are law abiding, puts foreign workers ahead of American workers, and encourages even more illegal immigration.”

Members present pointed to the amnesty offered to illegal immigrants in 1986 as evidence that amnesty only encourages more illegal immigration.

Reps. Shuler and Smith were joined at the press conference today by Homeland Security Ranking Member, Peter King (R-NY); Immigration Subcommittee Ranking Member, Steve King (R-IA); Immigration Reform Committee Chairman Brian Bilbray (R-CA); and Terrorism Subcommittee Ranking Member Ed Royce (R-CA).

Rep. Shuler is a member of the Immigration Reform Caucus. The Immigration Reform Caucus is dedicated to identifying legislative solutions to address the issue of illegal immigration.

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