



November 2013 Barnett Law Group Breaking News

Comprehensive Immigration Reform on Life Support

Immigration Reform looks increasingly unlikely this year. With only a few days left on the House calendar for 2013 and discouraging remarks by Speaker of the House John Boehner it appears that immigration reform may not be dead but it's on life support for the foreseeable future. We know that the budget struggle will begin anew in January and many commentators believe that the House will not want to take up the hot potato issue of immigration reform until after the mid-term election results. With this gloomy prediction we well may not see any changes in our immigration laws until 2015.

What will have the most important impact in reshaping our immigration system?

A nationwide poll conducted by American Immigration Council asked whether changes in policy, education or law would have the most impact on a different path for the U.S. immigration system. A majority of those who responded felt that rather than a change in the law, state and federal policies would advance a new approach to U.S. immigration. Pointing to such advances as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Provisional Waivers for U.S. citizen spouses, the DOMA decision allowing immigration benefits for same-sex marriages, some States provisional driver's licenses and rejection of Federal Secure Communities policies, these responders believe that once the will of the people and the social movements they create is implemented, governments must take action.

Might Parole in Place Provide Permanent Residency to Millions of Undocumented Persons Without a Change in Immigration Law?

On Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, DHS issued a memorandum 3 years in the making that allows spouses, children, and parents of military members to be issued "parole in place" by the USCIS to remain in the US in lawful status and/or to pursue applications for permanent residency. Current immigration law allows persons who have either been inspected and admitted or paroled by immigration authorities to file for permanent residency through an immigrant visa sponsored by a US citizen spouse, parent, or child over 21 years of age or an immigrant visa sponsored by a US employer. We know that many of those undocumented have either a close US citizen relative or US employer who could sponsor them. For those undocumented persons who either entered without a visa or who overstayed their permitted period of admission, a grant of parole in place would allow these applicants to become U.S. Permanent Residents thereby reducing the numbers of undocumented by millions. And all through a mechanism which does not require Congressional approval. The question is whether the executive will to pursue such a policy exists.

No Texas Driver's Licenses without Approval Notice

DPS has announced that it will not issue an extension of a driver's license with just the USCIS receipt notice. This means that nonimmigrants who have filed for extensions of their status and are considered to be lawful may not obtain a driver's license.

Don't wait for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Contact us at (713) 980-9939 to discuss the many options you or a family member may have now for immigration relief.