

**From:** Mark Krikorian **b(6)**@cis.org>  
**Date:** Thursday, December 26, 2019 at 2:54 PM  
**To:** Wilbur Ross **b(6)**  
**Subject:** Immigration and reapportionment

Secretary Ross: Thanks for your call.

I'm afraid some people misunderstood our recent report on the long-term consequences of mass immigration on the apportionment of House seats and, thus, of electoral votes:

<https://cis.org/Report/Impact-Legal-and-Illegal-Immigration-Apportionment-Seats-US-House-Representatives-2020>

Our findings were about the *\*cumulative\** effect of decades of mass immigration, based on the likely findings of the 2020 decennial census, not on the likely shift of seats next year. In other words, it's not that 26 House seats will shift next year (24 of them from states that voted Republican in the 2016 election), but rather that the results of next year's census will show that, were it not for years of high immigration (most of it legal), 26 House seats would be in different states, 24 of them having voted for President Trump in 2016. We were careful in describing our findings but did not anticipate the way they might be misunderstood, and should have been clearer about what the findings were *\*not\**. Please accept my apologies for any difficulties this might have caused you or the Census Bureau.

As we tried to make clear, the moral of the story is not that immigrants shouldn't be counted in the census for purposes of apportionment. Instead, we see these findings as making the case for considering the *\*political\** consequences of mass legal immigration, in addition to economic, social, and other effects. The Democrats are open about this -- when Barney Frank was still in Congress, he openly acknowledged that mass immigration (again, most of it legal) is a key part of Democrats' strategy to gain political power. Likewise, Eliseo Medina, an official in the SEIU and the Democratic Socialists of America, made the same point after Obama's election, saying that immigration "will solidify and expand the progressive coalition for the future."

Our big concern is that the administration's as-yet-unreleased immigration plan will set in stone the current legal immigration level of 1 million-plus each year, and thus continue this shift of political power toward blue states.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions. -- MK

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