

N E W S R E L E A S E



Representative
STEVE KING



5th Congressional District of Iowa

CONTACT: Melissa McKay
PHONE: 202-225-4426
FAX: 202-225-3193

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2004

KING SPEAKS OUT AGAINST AMNESTY

Kiron, IA – Congressman Steve King today issued the following statement on the President’s pending proposal of sweeping changes to U.S. immigration policy:

“As President Bush prepares to announce his proposals for significant changes to existing immigration laws, I’ll watch with a cautiously pessimistic eye for what is expected to be an exceptionally lenient plan.

“I strongly and unequivocally oppose mass amnesty for aliens who violate our immigration laws.

“Amnesty by any name, be it earned amnesty or legalization, jeopardizes our national security. Mahmud Abouhalima was granted amnesty in 1986 and was subsequently one of the terrorists that bombed the Trade Center in 1993.

“Haven’t we learned the lesson of the IRCA in 1986? At the time it was hoped that an amnesty would make it easier to enforce immigration laws by legalizing the illegal alien population. However, the legalization of 3 million aliens backfired and the illegal alien population was quickly doubled in a decade-- and is estimated to have tripled it in less than 15 years.

“Americans will have to pay increased taxes as a consequence of the burden amnesty would place on our school systems, welfare and social service systems, roads and transportation systems, the sprawl and

environmental degradation, the health care system, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs.

“Allowing aliens who break the rules by entering the United States illegally to go to the front of the immigration line is a slap in the face to law-abiding immigrants.”

On December 17, 2003, Congressman King authored a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge in response to his recent remarks regarding legalization of illegal aliens and amnesty, asking him to clarify and restate his position on these vital issues. A copy of the letter, which garnered 35 additional cosigners, can be found on King’s website at www.house.gov/steveking.

#####