

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King today made the following statement about President Obama’s plan to push comprehensive immigration reform, including amnesty, in 2009.

**“The Obama Administration has shut down worksite enforcement, effectively suspending law enforcement on employers who are hiring illegals. They have shifted the focus from intercepting illegal drugs and people coming from Mexico to intercepting legal U.S. guns on their way to Mexico. Now the Obama Administration has come out in support of amnesty for law breakers.**

**“Obama is taking the United States of America into an abrupt, headlong lurch away from the foundations that made us a great nation.**

**“The American people want this Administration to enforce existing immigration laws. Regardless of the guise under which it will be presented to the public, President Obama’s amnesty plan is a dangerous path for our nation that will sacrifice the Rule of Law.**

**“In our current economic crisis, Americans cannot afford to lose more jobs to illegal workers. With more than 12 million illegal aliens living in the United States and over 7.7 million of those illegal aliens working in the United States, America cannot afford to grant amnesty to those that have broken the Rule of Law. American workers are depending on President Obama to protect their jobs from those in America illegally.”**

From today’s New York Times:

While acknowledging that the recession makes the political battle more difficult,

President Barack Obama plans to begin addressing America's immigration system this year, including looking for a path for illegal immigrants to become legal, a senior administration official said Wednesday.

Obama will frame the new effort — likely to rouse passions on all sides of the highly divisive issue — as "policy reform that controls immigration and makes it an orderly system," said the official, Cecilia Munoz, deputy assistant to the president and director of intergovernmental affairs in the White House.