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## We need 'comprehensive immigration reform'

The Hutchison-Pence immigration proposal ("Comprehensive immigration," Op-Ed, Wednesday) breaks apart any comprehensive immigration reform plan in one notable spot: secure the border first and then work visas are discussed.

Whether the U.S. secures the border or starts a visa program, these suggestions will take years to implement. Why not start them at the same time? The sooner the better.

Migrants are crossing illegally every day because the legal pathway is overcrowded with 3 million applications. The failure to approve or deny these applicants exponentially en-

courages illegal immigration. The visa application system needs the most reform.

That's why President Bush calls for "comprehensive immigration reform," not border security alone.

Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego pushed immigrants east to Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The border security plan succeeded in building walls, yet the migrants kept coming.

Today, there are more illegal crossings than ever because the visa application system remains untouched. Understanding migration patterns and relieving congested legal visa pathways is the best border se-

curity protection for preventing illegal immigration.

In short, start a massive work visa program to SAFE (Secure Authorized Foreign Employee) visa countries and revitalize immigration administrative procedures in conjunction with improved border security.

This three-part strategy is what President Bush means by "comprehensive" immigration reform. Anything less is unfinished reform. America is ready now for an entire overhaul of the immigration system.

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