



Ramiro Ruiz, a native of Chiapas, Mexico, waits at the Work Center in Phoenix, Ariz., a designated area where locals can hire out Latino workers for jobs such as landscaping. The proposed

Senate reform bill on immigration would set the price tag to apply for permanent citizenship at \$5,000. (Robert Harbison photo/The Christian Science Monitor)

## For immigrants, Senate reform bill is unrealistic

For the U.S. Senate reform plan to work as intended, illegal immigrants would need to embrace its rules — not opt for business as usual

Amanda Paulson, Faye Bowers and Daniel B. Wood

On any given day in the Home Depot parking lot in the San Fernando Valley, from 100 to 200 day laborers — almost all of them undocumented — show up hoping for work. Much of the talk last Friday was about the new Senate immigration plan, particularly its proposal to let illegal immigrants step forward and start down the path to legalization and, eventually, U.S. citizenship.

"This is unquestionably an opportunity to come out of the shadows and into the sunlight," said Jefe Rodriguez, a middle-aged contractor who says he makes about \$200 in a good week. "However, \$5,000" — the price tag to apply for perma-

nent residency — "is way too much money, mucho dinero. We don't have that kind of money."

This reaction — "yes, but ..." — is one sign that the reforms could fall short even if they become law, because illegal immigrants themselves may prefer business as usual to a regimen of fees and journeys home. Their early reactions range from guarded optimism to good-humored laughter at the idea that the plan, as laid out, could actually work.

Still, the view in Washington, D.C., where the Senate is debating the bill this week, is that this fragile but bipartisan agreement represents a significant step toward finding common ground on an issue that has divided the country in recent years. While the legislation has generated criticism

from hardliners on both sides of the immigration debate, many have lauded it as an imperfect compromise.

A significant concern outside the Beltway is that the requirements of the proposed bill may prove too burdensome. Many immigrants can't conceive of how to scrape together the fines and fees necessary to enroll in the program. Others distrust the requirement that the head of household return to his or her country of origin.

Still, some activists see it both as a good starting point and an opportunity for many immigrants to find security.

"It's immature to say nothing is better than something imperfect," **Reform**, continued to page 9

## Democrats seek diversity in advisers

Nancy Benac

WASHINGTON — When the leading Republican presidential candidates sit down with their top advisers, those with a seat at the table don't exactly look like America, to use the phrase popularized by former President Bill Clinton.

The 2008 presidential race is notable for the presence of a woman and an African American among the leading Democratic candidates. But progress is much slower when it comes to diversifying the ranks of top decision-makers within the vari-

ous campaigns, especially those of the Republicans.

The campaigns of the top GOP candidates — Mitt Romney, John McCain, Rudy Giuliani — couldn't point to any key advisers who are black, although there are some women in the top tier. Not unsurprisingly, those campaigns with the most women and minorities among top staff members are Democrats Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama.

Clinton's campaign manager is Patti Solis Doyle, a charter member of "Hillaryland" who went to work

for Clinton as a scheduler during Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and stayed through eight years in the White House. Solis Doyle's Mexican immigrant parents came to the first Clinton inauguration in 1992 and wept with joy that their daughter would be part of the first lady's staff.

As first lady, Clinton's advisers also included a group of women known informally as "the Chix," and some of those same women now have her ear in the campaign, including media adviser Mandy Grunwald and longtime Democratic activist Ann Lewis. Her top two policy advisers are women, one of them black and the other Indian American.

Solis Doyle speaks to the benefits of having a diverse staff: "First of all, it's more fun. Second of all, it gives us different perspectives on decision-

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## Diabetes pill tied to increased heart risks

Marilynn Marchione

A widely used diabetes pill raises the risk of heart attacks and possibly death, according to a scientific analysis that reveals what some experts are calling another Vioxx-like example of the government failing to protect the public from an unsafe drug.

More than 6 million people worldwide have taken the drug, sold as Avandia and Avandamet, since it came on the market eight years ago to help control blood sugar in people with the most common form of diabetes. About 1 million Americans use it now.

Pooled results of dozens of studies on nearly 28,000 people revealed a 43 percent higher risk of heart attack for those taking Avandia compared to people taking other diabetes drugs or no diabetes medication, according to the analysis, which was published online.

The study, published by the New England Journal of Medicine, also found a trend toward more heart-related deaths.

The findings are frightening because two-thirds of diabetics die of heart problems, so a drug that boosts this possibility is especially hazardous for them.

Still, the actual risks to any single patient appear small. Diabetics should talk to their doctors before stopping any medication, said a statement issued by the American Diabetes Association and two groups

of heart doctors.

Avandia's maker, British-based GlaxoSmithKline PLC, disputed the results of the analysis but acknowledged that its own similar review found a 30 percent increased risk — information it gave last August and possibly even earlier to the U.S. Food

and Drug Administration (FDA). But the company said that more rigorous studies did not confirm excess risk.

FDA officials issued a safety alert on Monday and said they likely would convene an advisory panel, but planned no immediate changes to the current side effect warnings on the drug's packaging.

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, Coretta Scott King, sit with three of their four children in their Atlanta, Ga., home on March 17, 1963. From left are: Martin Luther King III, 5, Dexter Scott, 2, and Yolanda Denise, 7. Yolanda Denise King, daughter and eldest child of civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died late Tuesday May 15, 2007 in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 51. (AP file photo)

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