

The Senate Side

by State Senator John Putney

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Last week legislators created a task force to offer recommendations to combat the illegal immigration problem in Iowa.

This legislative task force is charged with reviewing the laws of other states that have implemented measures over the past year to deal with illegal immigration. The failure of the federal government to adequately address the illegal immigration problem has left it to the states to take control of the issue.

Many states have either passed comprehensive legislation or are in the process of putting together legislation to battle this emerging threat. Oklahoma has led the charge so far and it is reported that up to 25,000 illegal immigrants will be moving out of Oklahoma because of this new law.

What will Iowa do?

One solution offered is to penalize businesses that hire these illegal immigrants. While ensuring businesses follow the letter of the law is important it is a small part of a larger solution.

This legislative task force will forward a comprehensive package of reforms to the legislature in the coming weeks. This package will focus not only on the responsibility of business but also cooperation between local, state and federal law officers, more tools for the law enforcement community and eliminating services for illegal immigrants. Your thoughts and opinions are important to me. Please contact me: john.putney@legis.state.ia.us or 515-281-3371