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TEXAS VOTER SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

Baselice & Associates, Inc. was retained to conduct survey research for the purpose of studying attitudes and opinions of registered voters in Texas. This survey was conducted among N=1,001 randomly selected voters on June 13 - 17, 2007. The margin of error for a sample of this size is $\pm 3.1\%$ at the .95 test level.

As the U.S. Congress contemplates possible changes to the country's immigration laws, a survey was commissioned to assess support among the Texas electorate for some of the major policy changes being considered by Congress. In terms of overall support for the comprehensive immigration reform legislation being considered by Congress, a majority of Texas voters (59%) favors the bill a while 36% of voters oppose the legislation as described:

As you may know, Congress is considering a bill that would reform the current laws regulating immigration. The proposal would add resources to enhance border security, impose tougher employer penalties for hiring illegal immigrants, make English the language of the United States, create a temporary worker program, and create a process for illegal immigrants already in this country to gain legal status by paying a fine, passing a criminal background check and meeting other requirements. Based on what you know, would you favor or oppose the immigration bill Congress is considering? **If choice made, ask:** Is that strongly or somewhat (favor / oppose)?

32% Favor / Strongly
26% Favor / Somewhat
59% TOTAL FAVOR

11% Oppose / Somewhat
25% Oppose / Strongly
36% TOTAL OPPOSE

5% Unsure/ refused (**vol**)

- There is no significant difference in support for this legislation regardless of partisanship, with similar levels of support noted among Republicans (59% favor / 37% oppose), Democrats (62% favor / 32% oppose), and Independents (55% favor / 39% oppose).

There is currently a high level of recall about the immigration issue among Texas voters with nearly two-thirds of all voters (63%) reporting to have recently seen or heard a lot about U.S. immigration laws.

Three out of four voters (75%) think the nation's immigration system is broken and in need of a major overhaul, while 18% say the system has some minor problems requiring some minor changes, and very few voters (3%) saying the current immigration system works well and needs no major changes. When asked about illegal immigration in Texas, 48% think it is *extremely serious* with another 29% saying illegal immigration in Texas *very serious*.

When the individual provisions of the proposed immigration reform legislation are tested, there are some significant differences noted among partisan subgroups.

- Republicans (86%) are more likely than Democrats (61%) to favor the provision which would double the number of Border Patrol agents, build hundreds of miles of new fencing, and increase the use of advanced technology along the border.
- Republicans (86%) are also more likely than Democrats (76%) to favor a provision which would impose tougher penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants while giving employers better methods of verifying the status of their workers
- Democrats (71%) are more likely than Republicans (56%) to favor the provision which would create a system to provide illegal immigrants already in this country a chance to obtain legal status.
- On the other hand, the provision that would establish a temporary worker program is favored by Republicans (61%) and Democrats (66%) in almost equal numbers.

Regardless if they support the immigration legislation or not, more than four out of five Texas voters (84%) agree with a statement saying U.S. Senators should allow the immigration bill to be voted on by the full Senate, with high levels of agreement noted among Democrats (87%), Republicans (82%) and Independents (84%).

Underscoring the urgency many voters have regarding immigration reform, a significant majority (76%) of Texas voters say Congress should act this year to address the immigration system.