

House Democrats mull immigration fragments

by UPI

WASHINGTON - U.S. House of Representatives Democrats are considering breaking the contentious immigration reform bill into smaller elements, The Washington Times reported.

U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Fla., told the newspaper the idea had been floated at a recent meeting in an effort to "come up with something that is doable, sensible and plausible."

The reform, backed by U.S. President George Bush, is in the Senate now and has met with opposition from some Republicans who regard a so-called path to citizenship as an amnesty for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants.

The opposition is stiffer among House Republicans, however, and the newspaper said Tuesday that Republicans are open to splitting up the issue to make the point that enforcement must be the top priority.

"If you've got a situation where the border is still porous and you provide no interior enforcement and you provide amnesty, you're going to be in the same situation 10 years from now," Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., and the minority's chief deputy whip, told the Times.

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