

Bush pushes immigration reform

by UIP

WASHINGTON - U.S. President George Bush Tuesday pushed for adoption of an immigration reform measure before Congress, saying the current system "isn't working."

Bush, speaking at an immigration reform briefing at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, said most Americans understand the current system needs reform and efforts to fix it in 1986 failed.

"The first thing that we've got to recognize in the country is that the system isn't working," Bush said, calling for something to replace it.

"This is a moment for people who have been elected to come together, focus on a problem, and show the American people that we can work together to fix the problem. If you dislike the status quo on immigration, then you ought to be supporting a comprehensive approach to making sure the system works."

The measure before Congress has been criticized as amounting to amnesty. The measure has been tabled once in the Senate and was due to be addressed again this week.

"This bill goes to the heart of our values," Bush said. "We have proven that our nation is capable of assimilating people. And I'm confident that we can continue to be a nation that assimilates. The bill recognizes that English is a part of the assimilation process and wants to help people learn the language in order to be able to take advantage of America."

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