Policy Response to Forced Migration

Current reform proposals do not address why migration occurs. Rather than address the causes of unauthorized migration to the United States, particularly from Mexico and Central America, the primary focus of Congressional immigration-reform debates has been about keeping immigrants out. With the exception of temporary work programs or for highly skilled workers such as engineers (and potentially low-skilled agricultural, industrial and construction workers), 2013 bills in 2013 sought to vastly expand border and internal enforcement mechanisms, authorizing use of drones, the National Guard, employment verification and other measures at the cost of an additional $46 billion.