Main immigration issues for 2017? Likely policy direction of Cllinton admin re: detention, deportation and citizenship? Best speakers from federal government?

Comprehensive immigration bill in the first 100 days if Dems have Senate.

**\*\*Path to Citizenship—template of Senate Bill 2013\*\***

* Increase border security, customs, etc.
* e-verify nationwide for employers
* significant reforms to legal immigration system to bring down the backlogs of people who have been waiting in line
* H1B visa reform (there is massive abuse in this program)
* Pathway to citizenship—undocumented people can pass a background check, language test, civics test, record of paying taxes and then get in line to become a citizen

If Dems don’t win Senate, then they may not create a path that ends in citizenship. It might end short of that.

They aren’t going to try to cede any ground to the GOP by breaking up the bill. Javier Basera will be the House leader on this.

Chuck Schumer will be majority leader and will push the bill in the Senate.

Obama’s approach worked in senate but not in house. He was criticized for not stepping forward.

**\*\*Clinton move forward on executive actions?\*\***

The DACA and DAPA program was an executive action—the GOP got DAPA overturned through the courts.

For Hillary, will we try to move forward with executive action when we are trying to do a comprehensive bill in the Congress? That would sour the situation on the Hill. She will probably look for alternatives to that.

**\*\*Legal Representation in Immigration Court\*\***

**She will probably close the family detention centers in Texas. She wants to close those centers down, and she can.**

How do we connect asylum seekers with lawyers? How will the children get appointed counsel if they are not in a central location? If you get an inabsentia deportation order you are never eligible for legal immigration.

These centers have health care, access to counsel, etc.

**\*\*Private Contractors in Detention Facilities\*\***

Justice Dept announced that no private companies would be contracting in federal prison system. Department of Homeland Security took a different approach—they said they’d convene an advisory committee and do a review about private corporations in immigration detention facilities.

Hard issue for Clintons because immigration system is right now almost wholly administered by private companies. To preserve the current level of enforcement, they will need those private centers (because there aren’t enough beds in the federal system).

Lorella Praeli

Key person in Clinton group—Dreamer (married to a US citizen)

Head of Latino outreach for Clinton campaign

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Julia Preston—would be interested in being part of the conversation in March.

Stepping down from NYT December 1 –wants to write a book

Moderator:

mid-November