

## FY2012 Homeland Security Spending Bill Amendment

Written by Mike Honda  
Thursday, 02 June 2011 11:28

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Last night, during consideration of the Department of Homeland Security spending bill for Fiscal Year 2012, I, along with my colleague Representative Judy Chu, offered an amendment on the House Floor to remove language that targets immigrant integration grants. Every year, immigrant integration grants provide funding to local churches, schools, and community centers across the nation to prepare legal permanent residents for citizenship through English lessons and American history and civics lessons. I was pleased that my colleagues unanimously accepted our amendment, recognizing that these grants have bipartisan support and are important to our nation. After the vote, I made the following statement:

***The notion that we, as a nation, shouldn't fund programs like immigrant integration grants flies in the face of what our country is all about. These new Americans, all of who came here legally, are not looking for an easy ride; they're simply looking for the chance to learn English, learn about the history of their new home, and integrate into the fabric of America. I congratulate my colleagues in the House for recognizing this, for removing language that targets these important grants, and for allowing the Appropriations Committee to consider reprogramming funds to support immigrant integration. As the President's budget recommends, immigrant integration grants should continue to have a direct appropriations source, and this amendment is one step closer to restoring that practice.***  □ □ □