

World News Roundup

Immigration

WH to unveil framework

Prez open to Dreamers 'pathway to citizenship'

WASHINGTON, Jan 25, (AP): President Donald Trump says he's open to an immigration plan that would provide a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the country as children and are now here illegally.

"We're going to morph into it," Trump told reporters Wednesday. "It's going to happen, at some point in the future, over a period of 10 to 12 years."

Trump's pronouncements came as the White House announced it would unveil a legislative framework on immigration next week that it hopes can pass both the House and the Senate. The president's remarks amounted to a preview of that framework. He said he'll propose \$25 billion for building a wall on the US-Mexico border and \$5 billion for other security measures.

But immediately after Trump spoke, a senior White House official stressed the idea of a pathway to citizenship so-called Dreamers was just a "discussion point" in the plan that the White House intended to preview to the House and Senate.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the administration's thinking on a contentious issue that has roiled lawmakers for months.

Despite his previously harsh rhetoric, Trump told reporters he had a message for the Dreamers: "Tell 'em not to be concerned, OK? Tell 'em not to worry. We're going to solve the problem."

Trump has said repeatedly that any deal to protect those immigrants from deportation is contingent on money for the border wall and other security measures. Trump also wants to limit the family members that immigrants are able to sponsor to join them in the US and either replace or transform a visa lottery aimed at increasing diversity.

Trump has given Congress until March to come up with a plan to protect the nearly 700,000 young people who had been protected from deportation and given the right to work legally in the country under the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. Trump announced he was ending DACA last year.

Trump expressed confidence a deal can be reached on the issue, and said he'd like to see one hammered out by the time he returns from Davos, Switzerland, on Friday. John Kelly, Trump's chief of staff, stayed in Washington, to help work out an immigration deal, said White House spokesman Raj Shah.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said earlier Wednesday that the framework to be unveiled Monday "represents a compromise that members of both parties can support."



Trump



A prayer circle at Paducah Tilghman High School held a prayer circle on Jan 24, at the school for students at Marshall County High School where two students were killed and 18 others were injured during a shooting on Jan 23. (AP)

America

Bid to up foreign investment rules

The Trump administration supports bipartisan bills in Congress to toughen US foreign investment rules amid growing concern about Chinese efforts to buy US high-tech companies, the White House said in a statement on Wednesday.

The legislation would broaden the government's power to stop foreign purchases of US firms by strengthening the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

The bills "would achieve the twin aims of protecting national security and preserving the longstanding United States open investment policy," the White House said.

The bills, introduced in November by Republican Senator John Cornyn and Republican Representative Robert Pittenger, have Republican and Democratic co-sponsors. The Senate Banking Committee will hold a hearing on the topic on Thursday.

The legislation would expand CFIUS'

reach to allow it to review, and potentially reject, smaller investments and add new national security factors for CFIUS to consider. Those factors include whether information about Americans, such as Social Security numbers, would be exposed as part of the transaction or whether the deal would facilitate fraud.

CFIUS already has a reputation for being tough on high-tech deals involving China in particular and has blocked transactions that involve sophisticated semiconductors.

It has become more cautious since President Donald Trump was inaugurated a year

ago amid growing political and economic tensions between the United States and China.

The panel has balked at approving a broader range of deals from China since the inauguration, according to lawyers who specialize in representing proposed transactions to the board. (RTRS)

Medicaid recipients sue: Fifteen people in Kentucky who get their health insurance through Medicaid have sued the federal government, asking a judge to block new first-in-the-nation rules that would make them work to keep their taxpayer-funded benefits.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in the US District Court for the District of Columbia by three nonprofit groups, is the first legal challenge of a Medicaid waiver granted by the Trump administration.

The federal government announced earlier this month it would let Kentucky be the first state to require many of its Medicaid recipients to have a job or do volunteer work in order to keep their health coverage. The waiver would also charge monthly premiums and lock people out of their coverage for six

months if they fail to notify state officials of changes in their employment and income.

State officials expect the new rules will cause 95,000 people to lose their Medicaid coverage for a variety of reasons over the next five years. And in an unusual pre-emptive move, Republican Gov. Matt Bevin has signed an executive order that would repeal the state's expanded Medicaid program if any part of the new rules is struck down in court. If that happens, it would end health coverage for more than 400,000 people.

"We will not be intimidated. We will defend the rights of individuals to enroll in Kentucky's Medicaid program," said Samuel Brooke, deputy legal director for the Southern Poverty Law Center, which filed the lawsuit along with the National Health Law Program and the Kentucky Equal Justice Center.

The lawsuit names acting Health and Human Services Secretary Eric Hargan, who visited with Bevin at the Kentucky Governor's Mansion on Wednesday and spoke with a few reporters after their meeting.

"We believe it's a solid program. We think it's solid legally," Hargan said. "We will await the result in court." (AP)



Cornyn



Pittenger

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