

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today cosponsored legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Ben Quayle (AZ-03), H.R. 5953, to uphold the rule of law and the Constitutional role of Congress by prohibiting the Department of Homeland Security from implementing President Obama’s directive to stop enforcing the nation’s immigration laws.

“President Obama is once again sidestepping the Constitution, ignoring the proper role of Congress, and putting his reelection prospects ahead of his responsibilities to the American people,” Rooney said. “Regardless of your position on the Dream Act, the Constitution gives Congress and only Congress the authority to legislate, and it gives the President the responsibility to enforce the laws of the land. The President can’t ignore the Constitution every time he thinks something is ‘the right thing to do.’”

“As the President himself said last year, he cannot change the laws unilaterally, he has to enforce the laws on the books, and this kind of executive action does a disservice the goal of passing comprehensive immigration reform.”

President Obama, September 28, 2011: “I just have to continue to say this notion that somehow I can just change the laws unilaterally is just not true. We are doing everything we can administratively. But the fact of the matter is there are laws on the books that I have to enforce. And I think there's been a great disservice done to the cause of getting the DREAM Act passed and getting comprehensive immigration passed by perpetrating the notion that somehow, by myself, I can go and do these things. It's just not true.”

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