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OBAMA TO MEET WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON IMMIGRATION

By Laura Meckler
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President Barack Obama will continue his stepped-up push for immigration legislation on Wednesday, meeting with a group of religious leaders to push for action. He hopes they will put pressure on House Republicans, who have been noncommittal about whether or when they will consider the issue.

Also attending the meeting will be Vice President Joe Biden, senior adviser Valerie Jarrett, Cecilia Munoz, the White House point person on immigration, and Melissa Rogers, who heads the White House's religious outreach program.

Mr. Obama has long wanted a comprehensive immigration overhaul, but he has kept silent for much of the year at the advice of allies on Capitol Hill. They say any lobbying on his part will turn off House Republicans, who don't want to be seen as doing his bidding. But over the last few weeks, Mr. Obama has stepped up his public and private work on the issue. Last week, he met with business leaders, who he also lobbied to pressure the House.

While Republicans have little interest in helping Mr. Obama achieve his goals, the party has long and deep connections with the business and religious communities.

The religious leaders included include several longtime supporters of immigration legislation. A White House official said those expected are:

- Leith Anderson, president of the National Association of Evangelicals
- Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop at the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle
- Joel Hunter, senior pastor at Northland Church in Orlando, Fla.
- Hyepin Im, president and CEO of Korean Churches for Community Development in Los Angeles
- Mike McClenahan, senior pastor at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church in Solana Beach, Calif.
- Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission
- Gabriel Salguero, president of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition
- Jim Wallis, president and CEO of Sojourners