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## OBAMA BACKS PIECEMEAL IMMIGRATION OVERHAUL

By Carol E. Lee  
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President Barack Obama said Tuesday that he would accept a piecemeal approach to overhauling the immigration system, a shift from his calls for a comprehensive overhaul that reflects the governing realities in a divided Congress.

Mr. Obama, in a wide-ranging interview before business executives at the annual Wall Street Journal CEO Council, said he is amenable to House Republicans taking up elements of the comprehensive immigration bill passed in the Senate, as long as the end result is the same.

"If they want to chop that thing up into five pieces, as long as all five pieces get done, I don't care what it looks like," Mr. Obama said. "What we don't want to do is simply carve out one piece of it . . . but leave behind some of the tougher stuff that still needs to get done."

He said he is "optimistic" that Congress will meet the goal he set of passing an immigration bill by the end of the year.

Mr. Obama also detailed some of the sanctions relief world powers are looking to give Iran in exchange for Tehran halting parts of its nuclear program, saying they wouldn't impact oil and banking restrictions.

A deal on Iran, which he said he is unsure will be reached this week when talks resume in Geneva, "would purchase a period of time – let's say six months – during which we could see if they could get to the end state of a position where we, the Israelis, the international community could say with confidence, Iran's not pursuing a nuclear weapon."

Mr. Obama is facing criticism over the prospect that the U.S. and its allies would relieve sanctions without gaining a more robust commitment from the Iranians to end their nuclear program.

Explaining how sanctions relief might work, Mr. Obama said: "Part of the reason I have confidence that the sanctions don't fall apart is because we're not doing anything around the most powerful sanctions: the oil sanctions, the banking sanctions, the financial-services sanctions. Those are the ones that have really taken a big chunk out of the Iranian economy."

The president also indicated his administration is considering a redo on the launch of the government's troubled health-care website, which few Americans have been able to use to purchase insurance.

He said he is confident the system eventually will succeed, but that given the problems plaguing the site, "We're going to have to, obviously, re-market and rebrand, and that will be challenging in this political environment."