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## RUBIO PRESSES FOR MORE ON IMMIGRATION

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WASHINGTON—Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.), one of the primary architects of the Senate bill to overhaul the immigration system, said the legislation represents an “excellent starting point” but more work needs to be done to strengthen border security.

“I think 95%-96% of the bill is in perfect shape and ready to do. But there are elements that need to be improved—this is how the legislative process is supposed to work,” Mr. Rubio said while speaking on ABC’s “This Week.”

Lawmakers are privately working on a plan to strengthen border security in the hopes of winning over Republicans, who have criticized the plan for not doing enough to prevent illegal border crossings. Leaders of both parties have said last week that they think the immigration system will be overhauled this year. Republicans also have directed their criticism at Mr. Rubio amid concerns his plan might end up benefiting Democrats.

Mr. Rubio said the GOP has valid criticism, and reasonable solutions to help bolster border security. He also directed criticism at the Obama administration, which he said keeps claiming “that there’s no problem—that the border is already secure.”

“The vast majority of Americans, the vast majority of conservative Republicans are prepared to support immigration reform but only if we can ensure that we’re not going to have another wave of illegal immigration in the future,” Mr. Rubio said.

On NBC’s “Meet the Press,” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.) predicted immigration reform would pass the Senate decisively.

“I think we are going to have a political breakthrough,” he said. “Congress is going to pass immigration reform I think we are going to get plus-70 votes. I have never been more optimistic about it.”

Sen. Robert Menendez (D., N.J.), speaking on CNN’s “State of the Union,” said the U.S. has more border security than at any time in the country’s history. He addressed steadfast GOP opponents, saying, “Ten angels could come swearing from above that this is the best legislation for America, and they would say the angels lied.”

He added, “So those I can never solve, or satisfy.”

He said Democrats are open to increasing border security. But, he added, they won’t support measures that make unachievable border security levels a prerequisite for giving illegal immigrants a pathway to citizenship.

Mr. Menendez also warned that GOP prospects for ever getting someone in the White House hinges on immigration. “The road to the White House comes to a road with a pathway to legalization. Without it, there will never be a road to the White House for the Republican party,” Mr. Menendez said.

Mr. Graham, speaking separately on NBC, said he doesn't think the GOP has a chance at winning the White House without overhauling the immigration system. "We are in a demographic death spiral as a party," he said. "The only way we can get back in the good graces of the Hispanic community, in my view, is to pass comprehensive immigration reform. If you don't do that. It doesn't matter who you run."