

E-Verify requirement must be part of larger immigration plan, Napolitano insists

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Although the Obama administration favors the expanded use of the electronic E-Verify system to confirm the legal status of prospective employees, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said today that any expansion of E-Verify must be part of a larger immigration reform plan.

“If you just do E-Verify, you’re not doing enough,” she told a breakfast meeting with reporters.

Napolitano said that E-Verify expansion should be part of a package that also includes the DREAM Act, which allows some children of illegal immigrants a pathway to U.S. citizenship, along with expanded H1B visas for high-tech workers and H2A visas.

“E-Verify by itself doesn’t solve all the problems we have with the existing laws,” Napolitano said.

Rep. Lamar Smith, the San Antonio Republican who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, is pressing ahead with legislation that would mandate employer use of E-Verify. Smith says that other reforms must wait until the southwestern border is secured and illegal immigration is curtailed.

But Napolitano insisted that E-Verify “can and should be part of (comprehensive) immigration reform.”