

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama says America's borders are "just too vast" for the immigration problem to be solved with fences and border patrols alone.

He said that a comprehensive solution is needed, instead, urging one that holds everyone accountable, from illegal immigrants to the businesses that hire them.

Obama said the reality is, Republican support is needed to arrive at such a solution. Right now, GOP support is not forthcoming in an election year.

In his first major speech on immigration at president, Obama also spoke to the need to reform the system of legal immigration. That's a welcome message to advocates who contend too much emphasis has been placed on enforcing laws against illegal immigrants even as eligible citizenship applicants languish.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama says his administration won't "kick the can down the road" when it comes to fixing the nation's broken immigration policies.

In his first major speech on the issue as president, Obama says that while the frustrations over immigration aren't new, Arizona's tough new anti-immigrant law and the protests surrounding it have created new tensions. Still, Obama says reform has been held hostage by political posturing and special-interest wrangling.

Obama had promised to make immigration reform a top priority in his first year in office. Advocates had hoped that his efforts would be completed by now.

Copyright © 2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.