Unintended Consequences:
Considering Mexico’s Stability when Designing U.S. Immigration Reform

Elizabeth Hennemuth
Motivators of Mexican Migration

- Mexico’s unfulfilled economic promises
- Mexico’s increasing criminality
- Mexico’s weak institutions
- Large, established Mexican immigrant group
Obstacles to Mexican Middle-Class Migration

- Visa distribution
- Economic circumstances
- Social integration
Proposed U.S. Immigration Reforms

Undocumented immigrants

Immigrant youth

Immigrant workers
After Reform: Mitigated Obstacles to Migration

Motivators of Mexican migration

U.S. OBSTACLES TO MIDDLE-CLASS MEXICAN MIGRATION

Visa distribution

Economic circumstances

Social integration

Possible consequences for Mexico

Effect reduced

Effect eliminated
Outcome 1: Loss of leadership and skilled labor
Outcome 2: Limited Remittances from Middle Class
Outcome 3: Reduced Job Creation
Effect of Mexico’s Instability on U.S. Security

- Cross-border violence
- Deteriorating economic ties
- Instability in Central America
Conclusion