



Citizens For Immigration Reform

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Our mission is to educate the public, seek reform of the immigration policies, insist that all immigration laws be enforced and our borders be secured.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our next meeting will be February 12th

TRIP TO AUSTIN**Plan to Join Us**

CFIR will be going to Austin on Wednesday, January 28th to visit our legislators. It is important for us to go before February because the legislators will be in their committee meetings.

- ◆ Transportation will be provided. However, seating is limited so make your reservation now! Email Robin Bernier at rb@dfwaps.com or call our voice mail at 214.261.5373 and Robin will call you back.
- ◆ Driving down on your own will be fine, and information will be given you where and what time to meet with the group.
- ◆ Cost: \$10.00
- ◆ We will leave at 5 a.m. at the Farmers Branch Recreation Center and make our way back home by 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ Helps and information will be supplied so you can feel comfortable in making your visit.



Calling All Activists

If you are a member of a political club or an organization that celebrates the principles that have made America unique, such as the Rule of Law, please encourage your organization to put their support behind Rep. Leo Berman's bill, HB 266, that mirrors Oklahoma's successful immigration bill. Tell your members to ask their legislator to sign on as co-authors. Rep. Berman's bill reads in part:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

relating to regulating the provision of benefits and services to, and the verification of the employment status of, immigrants and to enforcing laws relating to immigrants; providing civil and criminal penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

ARTICLE 1. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

SECTION 1.01. The legislature finds that:

(1) illegal immigration is causing economic hardship and lawlessness in this state and is encouraged when an agency of this state or of a political subdivision of this state provides public benefits to a person without verifying the person's immigration status; and

(2) the harboring and sheltering of illegal immigrants, and the encouraging of illegal immigrants to reside in this state, through the practice of issuing an identification card to a person without verifying the person's immigration status:

- (A) impedes the enforcement of federal immigration laws;
- (B) undermines the security of our borders; and
- (C) impermissibly restricts the privileges and immunities of legal residents of this state.

SECTION 1.02. The legislature declares that it is a compelling public interest of this state to discourage illegal immigration by requiring each agency of this state and of a political subdivision of this state to cooperate fully with federal immigration authorities in enforcing federal immigration laws, and that additional actions are necessary to ensure the integrity of governmental programs and services in this state.

Texas



Immigration and Related Bills Filed since Last Newsletter

Senator John Carona, (R-16) Dallas

- ◆ **SB 379** Relating to an annual report by the Border Security Council regarding criminal street gangs and gang-related crime.

Senator Dan Patrick (R-07) Houston

- ◆ **SB 357** Relating to a prohibition against the knowing employment of persons not lawfully present in the United States and the suspension of licenses held by certain employers for the knowing employment of those persons.
- ◆ **SB 358** Relating to the enforcement of state and federal laws governing immigration by certain governmental entities.

Rep. Patricia Harless (R-126) Houston

- ◆ **HB 404** Relating to the enforcement of state and federal laws governing immigration by certain governmental entities – Companion to **SB 358**.

Texas Taxpayers Spent \$678 Million on Healthcare for Illegal Immigrants

By Andrew Chavez – Ft. Worth Star Telegram 12.13.08

Healthcare for illegal immigrants cost the Texas government and local hospital districts \$678 million in a year, according to a new study that state lawmakers hope will show the federal government how much Texas is spending in uncompensated care for illegal immigrants.

The study, by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, estimates that \$597 million of the total was spent by 94 public hospitals during fiscal 2005-06.

The remainder, about \$81 million, went to the state's contribution to emergency Medicaid, which pays for emergency medical care for things such as childbirth, and to the Texas Family Violence Program, which funds shelters, 24-hour hot lines, counseling and other related services. That figure is from fiscal 2006-07.

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Texas Education Costs to Rise

***Judge Insists State Fix ESL by the Fall
Dallas Morning News, 12.20.08***

Articles about the importance of English on page 6

Austin - A federal judge has turned up the heat on the Legislature to develop a new language program for the estimated 140,000 limited-English middle and high school students.

"The time has come to put a halt to the failed secondary English as a Second Language program and monitoring system in Texas, the judge said in a ruling released Friday.

State officials had no estimate of the cost to comply with the order, but some observers said remediation for the 140,000 secondary students could cost at least \$500 more per student -- or \$70 million a year.

Improved state monitoring of local bilingual and ESL programs -- also ordered by Judge Justice -- could push the cost over \$100 million.

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***Mexican Drug Cartel Operations in Texas
Judicial Watch - 12.16.08***

Judicial Watch compiled information for IRCOT (Immigration Reform Coalition of Texas) on the Mexican Drug Cartel Operations in Texas. "The memo is offered as an interim background information product and is not intended as an exhaustive or final treatment of the subject matter."

The memo is quite long and chosen for this newsletter are the following selected news article excerpts. All excerpts are referenced in the memo.

A news article in the Dallas Morning News, January 4, 2009, reports that Mexico's drug violence is expected to intensify this year. Urge our state elected officials to continue state funding for border security and the Congress to ramp up the funding for border security.



News Article Excerpts

- ◆ "South Texans might soon be experiencing the same type of drug-war violence that people on the Mexican side of the border have been experiencing."
- ◆ "28 people wounded on the other side of the border this year, spending an estimated \$1 million," hospital administrators said. Nineteen were U.S. citizens or had dual citizenship, and the rest had legal permission to enter the country."
- ◆ Mexican drug cartels have conducted military-style training camps in at least six such locations in northern Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon states, some within a few miles of the Texas border, according to U.S. and Mexican authorities and the printed testimony of five protected witnesses who were trained in the camps.

- ◆ “Smuggling networks are using bribes to reach into the U.S. halls of justice.”
- ◆ “In direct response to recent United States law enforcement activities against Zetas members of the McAllen-Mission, Texas Plaza, Jaime Gonzalez, AKA ‘HUMMER,’ has ordered additional personnel to the Plaza to regain control and engage law enforcement officers if confronted,” states the bulletin, which was produced by the FBI’s McAllen Intelligence Center.
- ◆ “On August 25, 2008, federal and local law enforcement officials told the Associated Press that Mexican drug cartels are now sending hit men into the U.S. . .

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Federal Government

President Bush’s “Midnight Regulation” that changes the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Program Dallas Morning News - 01.02.09



Labor Department officials say the changes are needed to provide agricultural employers with workers in a timely fashion so that crops can be harvested:

Changes that will take effect on January 17th:

- ◆ Will make it easier for agricultural employers to hire temporary foreign workers if not enough domestic workers are able or willing to fill farm jobs.
- ◆ Promises to reduce paperwork and make processing deadlines more efficient.
- ◆ Revises the wages for temporary workers from the current standard to one based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Survey in order to make the H-2A program comparable with other guestworker programs.
- ◆ Wages will be set using a multiple-tier system based on local market rates.
- ◆ Provides employers additional time to search for

domestic workers, lessening the burden of proof on employers seeking H-2A visas for foreign workers they wish to hire and reduce the application forms and filings an employer must complete.

Farm worker advocates and opponents of illegal immigration say that the new regulations will:

- ◆ Undermine worker protections
- ◆ Exploit immigrants
- ◆ Set wage levels so low that domestic workers cannot compete with foreign workers for jobs.
- ◆ Undercuts the need for domestic workers by relying on a steady stream of immigrants who can be easily replaced if they complain. (Ira Mehlman of FAIR)
- ◆ Another drawback is that the new regulations may confuse farmers who must reconcile the changes to the program with with the priorities of the incoming Obama administration that can affect farmers’ decisions to plant seeds, harvest crops, or sell their businesses and whether to add or cut jobs from their payrolls. (Craig Regelbrugge of the American Nursery and Landscape Association.)

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***Job Destruction Newsletter
No. 1948 -- 12/23/2008***

H1-B Visa

According to the LA Times, Northrop Grumman can't find enough high tech people to hire. They even went looking on the beaches for geeks, which might explain why they didn't find anyone. LOL! The writer of the article spilled the beans right up front, but I'm sure he didn't mean to. He wrote that, "Many jobs require highly specialized skills and a security clearance."

Did all of you catch it? "Specialized skills" is the codeword for H-1B or green card visa holders, and that's a big problem since their employees are required to get security clearances.

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Nobel economist Milton Friedman labeled H-1Bs a government "subsidy" to enable employers to get workers at a lower wage

Homeland Security: Employers can no longer use expired documents in hiring

By Kellie Lunney - Gov.Exec. Newsletter

Beginning in February, employers in the United States will not be allowed to use expired documents to verify workers' employment eligibility.

The interim rule, published on Wednesday in the Federal Register by the Homeland Security Department, aims to streamline the employment eligibility verification process and crack down on fraud.

As of Feb. 2, 2009, expired U.S. passports or state-issued driver's licenses and other outdated identification cards will no longer qualify as valid documentation for Form I-9. Social Security cards will not be affected by the change because they do not expire.

"Expired documents are prone to fraudulent use in the Form I-9 process by aliens seeking unauthorized employment," the Federal Register notice stated

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The Coming Administration

President-Elect has Chosen California Representative Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor - Who is she?



A woman who at a 1996 meeting of the Southwest Voter Registration Project, said, "*We are all Americans, whether you are legalized or not.*" She was the sponsor of a California bill to issue drivers licenses to illegal aliens. On May 20, 2008, Solis staged a press conference and called for a congressional hearing denouncing ICE workplace raids, and she aggressively supports sponsored work sites for day laborers.

Open Borders, Amnesty Supporter Bill Richardson Withdraws Name

New Mexico's Governor Bill Richardson whom President-Elect Obama chose for Commerce Secretary has withdrawn his name due to a federal grand jury investigation.

Say What?

Getting Immigration Right

Excerpt from The New York Times

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/26/](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/26/opinion/26fri1.html? r=1)

[opinion/26fri1.html? r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/26/opinion/26fri1.html? r=1)

If Mr. Obama's team is confirmed, the country will have a homeland security secretary, Janet Napolitano of Arizona, and a commerce secretary, Bill Richardson of New Mexico, who understand the border region and share a well-informed disdain for foolish, inadequate enforcement schemes like the Bush administration's border fence. And it will have a labor secretary, Hilda Solis of California, who, as a state senator and congresswoman, has built a reputation as a staunch defender of immigrants and workers.

In simplest terms, what Ms. Solis and Mr. Obama seem to know in their gut is this: If you uphold workers' rights, even for those here illegally, you uphold them for all working Americans. If you ignore and undercut the rights of illegal immigrants, you encourage the exploitation that erodes working conditions and job security everywhere.

* * * * *

FAIR Poll Shows Voters Strongly Oppose Amnesty November 2008 Newsletter

- ◆ 67% of Obama voters either were not influenced by his views on immigration, or opposed his position on amnesty. Only 32% said Obama's support for amnesty was a factor in their decision to vote for him.
- ◆ 60% of all voters said their support for border and worksite enforcement remains a strong as it was a year ago. Only 21% of voters said they support amnesty.
- ◆ 57% of all voters said that amnesty would further harm the interests of American workers and strain public resources. Only 26% said that amnesty would aid economic recovery and ease public burdens.

Importance of the English Language

English: The Language of International Business and Diplomacy

The following information is taken from the article in the Dallas Morning News on December 06, 2008. In Business, English is Necessary, but not Always Sufficient.

- ◆ English is an official language in 52 countries.
- ◆ One-quarter to one-third of the world understands English to some degree.
- ◆ About 75 percent of the world's mail, telexes and cables are in English.
- ◆ Approximately 60 percent of the world's radio programs are in English.
- ◆ About 90 percent of all Internet traffic is as well,

The example of Finland:

- ◆ 4,000 Europeans are building a nuclear power plant. The language spoken on the work site? English.
- ◆ Roughly 2,300 engineers, scientists, managers, salespeople and designers from more than 45 countries who work for Nokia. The common language is English.
- ◆ Nearly all Finnish children start learning English in the third grade.
"English is so basic skill in Finland now, we say language studies start after learning English." Saila Tormala, a German teacher at the Kallahti Comprehensive School (grades I-9) in Helsinki.

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Hard Learning Curve In Teaching English To Chinese Students ***Investor's Business Daily - 10.29.08***

For-profit education companies are accelerating their learning curve when it comes to the potentially huge English-language teaching market in China.

The market for teaching Chinese education students, including adults, the English language is expected to reach \$3.3 billion in 2009...

"China is an ideal market for English language

teaching -- the size of the market, the trend toward globalization, the way that education is viewed as a relative priority. . ." Tim Daniels, chief executive of Baltimore based Wall Street Institute.

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Selected Excerpts from Influential Issues ***Texas Public Policy Foundation*** ***By Bill Peacock & Andrew Liu*** ***Full report can be found at***

<http://www.texaspolicy.com/pdf/2008-II-Education-final.pdf>

Why Do People Immigrate?

- ◆ People immigrate to improve their lot in life.
- ◆ Texans must remember that the flow of immigration will remain strong as long as 1) a far better quality of life can be achieved in the United States than in Mexico and other neighboring countries, and 2) our welfare programs are not reformed.
- ◆ Economic and political reform in Mexico and the U.S. is a must if we are ever to regain control of our borders and establish the rule of law when it comes to immigration.

Immigration, Citizenship and Document Fraud

- ◆ Every year an estimated 360,000 babies are born in the United States to illegal immigrants. James Pinkerton, Houston Chronicle (24 Sept. 2006).
- ◆ The immigration and naturalization process relies heavily on state documents.
- ◆ Texas should address the poor document security in Texas, particularly of birth and marriage certificates, which allows opportunities for document fraud.

Securing Our Borders

- ◆ Finally, secure borders are a prerequisite to meaningful immigration reform. After all, there is no weight to the threat of deportation if the immigrant can easily return across the border. Additionally, guest worker programs might reduce illegal immigration, but would not completely stem it, since those who do not obtain a pass would still be able to cross the border.
- ◆ With the resources and expertise available in

Texas, there is no need for us to be wholly dependent on the federal government. In fact, efforts in Texas by Governor Rick Perry and others have made progress, reducing crime and capturing human traffickers and drug smugglers in border regions. . .

Conclusion

Immigration is an issue as complex as it is contentious. In this paper, we recognize the efficacy of free markets in promoting economic growth, but also acknowledge the necessity of policy intervention to protect the rule of law and the security of the nation. While legal immigration provides a net economic benefit to Texas, it is clear that illegal immigration should be stemmed for the sake of national security, and fraud to gain an unfair advantage in the naturalization process should be stopped.

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*Don't forget to Be in Touch with
your Texas Elected Official*

Know your current elected official:

- ◆ Texas Legislature Online: www.capitol.state.tx.us; at the "Who represents Me?" section enter your address.
- ◆ If you live in a split district go to www.house.gov and enter your 5 digit zip code plus 4 digits at the "Find Your Representative" search box. Your last 4 digits can be found at www.usps.gov.
- ◆ Meet your elected officials at senatorial and state conventions, at campaign events and at group or club meetings.

Texas Directory

Governor Perry's Comment Line—1.800.252.9600
P.O. Box 12428, Austin TX 78711—512.463.2000
Fax 512.463.1849—<http://www.governor.state.tx.us>

Senate

PO Box -12068 Capitol Station - Austin TX 78711
512.473.0100 - Fax 512.463.0695 -
<http://www.senate.tx.us>

House

P.O. Box 2910 - Austin, TX 78768-2910
512-463-0845 - Fax: 512.463.5896
<http://www.house.tx.us>

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Need help finding your Texas Legislators,
call our voice mail at 214.261.5373. Leave
your address and your zip code with the 4
digit extension. We'll call you back

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Remember

*The people make the Nation,
the Nation does not make the people.*
Unknown

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