



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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March 12th Meeting**Meet and greet - 6:45p.m. - Meeting - 7p.m.****Farmers Branch Recreation Center****14050 Heartside Place****Farmers Branch, TX 75234****Speaker: Eyad Salloum**

Mr. Salloum will speak to us about the security of our nation as it relates to people who have entered our country, legally or illegally, and who want to do us harm via terrorist activities.

Eyad was born in Syria but moved with his parents to Kuwait in 1964. He comes from a highly educated and well known family in Syria. His father was the Legal Advisor for Kuwait Oil Corporation and his mother was a pharmacist who was the director of quality control for the Health Ministry in charge of the drug companies. She was recognized by the President of Syria on more than one occasion for her outstanding performance.

Eyad's father passed away when Eyad was 10 years old, so the family moved back to Syria in 1973. Eyad immigrated to the United States in 1981 at age 19 and settled in Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Georgia State University with a degree in Hotel Management in 1986. In 1992, he moved to Dallas to work at American Airlines in their IT department in various capacities.

He lives with his wife and two daughters in Lewisville TX where he is active in the community and is currently Chairman of the Board for the Lewisville Area Chamber of Commerce.

A good friend of Eyad says about him: "He is Syrian by birth, but American by choice."

CFIR/IRCOT TRIP TO AUSTIN



Even with having to reschedule our trip to Austin because of the icing on the roads, we still had 38 people make the effort. Many in the group took time away from work to make this visit. The reports of the visits have been mostly positive. There were a couple of visits that were not pleasant and my thanks goes to those who made these visits and endured them.

Thanks to Joel Downs of the FT. Worth chapter of CFIR who asked his Representative, Todd Smith of Euless, to help us find a room to meet in before we began our day. It really was a gift for our cause.



Appointments had been made, but not always with the elected officials. However, to visit with the aide whose responsibility lies with the immigration issue can be just as effective as being able to speak with the legislator.

The morning time was dedicated to making constituent visits. Then in the afternoon, groups of two-three made visits to the legislators that were not covered in the morning. At each visit, a handout was given out to inform the legislator why they should vote for HB 266 that requires E-Verify.

Other legislation advocated for was the Voter Photo ID legislation which appears to have a good chance of passing this year. See this page, Column 2.

The trip was a good beginning and plans are to be made for our next action. Legislation is now in the committees and hearings should begin soon. We will keep you updated.

In the meantime, you can visit your legislator in their district office. Call their office and see if you can make an appointment with them when they will be at the local office.

Jean Towell

Speaking of PhotoVoter ID

Voter ID Bill Referred to Full Senate Austin American-Statesman.com

The controversial Voter ID bill that triggered a nasty Senate fight last month over a rules change today was referred directly to the full Senate for a vote, setting the stage for new unpleasantness.

Now that it has been referred, Senate Bill 362 could be brought up for consideration as soon as next week, several senators said.

Republicans, who control the 31-member Senate, are adamantly pushing the bill as a key element of their legislative program. They insist the law is needed to curb voter fraud.

Democrats are adamantly opposed, claiming it would disenfranchise elderly and minority voters. They previously vowed an ugly fight when it is brought up for a vote.

(The) referral came without fanfare, one of more than 50 bills that were assigned today to various committees. While mostly symbolic, it promises to put outnumbered Democrats who oppose it on alert against the Upper Chamber's Republican majority.

Normally, bills are referred to Senate committees for review and approval before they come to the full Senate for debate and a vote. This bill was referred directly to the Committee of the Whole, the full Senate.

The controversial measure by Sens. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, and Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, would require Texas voters to verify their identity before they could cast a ballot.

No immediate word on when the measure will be brought up for Senate debate.

Why Voter ID Should become Law

Voter ID Was a Success in November
Wall Street Journal - Friday, 1.30.09

The article states that since the election of Barack Obama, there hasn't been a word about voter ID suppressing the votes of minorities, particularly African-Americans.

The reasons for the silence about alleged voter suppression is plain:

- ◆ Numerous academic studies show that voter ID had no effect on the turnout of voters in prior elections.
- ◆ The plaintiffs in every unsuccessful lawsuit filed against such state requirements could not produce a single individual who didn't either already have an ID or couldn't easily get one.
- ◆ Figures emerging from the November election . . . released by Prof. Michael McDonald of George Mason University, the overall national turnout of eligible voters was 61.6%, the highest turnout since the 1964 election.
- ◆ Georgia, one of two states (Indiana being the other) with the strictest ID requirements, had the largest turnout in its history with nearly four million voters.
- ◆ The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies predicts that when the final turnout numbers are in for the 2008 election, black turnout will probably reach historical high of almost 67% and likely surpass white turnout for the first time. All at a time when about half of the states passed various forms of voter ID requirements including two states with strict photo ID laws.
- ◆ With every election that has occurred since states have begun to implement voter ID, the evidence is

overwhelming that it does not depress the turnout of voters. Indeed it may actually increase the public's confidence that their votes will count.

* * *

Texas Immigration and Related Bills Filed since Last Newsletter

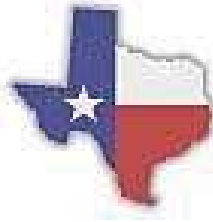
Rep. Sid Miller (Dist. 59)

HB 835 - Proof of Citizenship for TX Elected Officials.

Rep. Jim Jackson (R-115)

HB 1033 designates English as the official language of the State of Texas.

HB 1035 requires that, notwithstanding any federal laws, all applications and examinations for a state-issued license must be written or administered in English.



HB 1061 requires that any person who is applying for or renewing any occupational license, driver's license, or identification certificate must prove their citizenship or lawful presence in the United States to obtain the license they are seeking.

Yvonne Gonzales-Tourelles (D-35)

HB 139 - Relating to the creation of the offense of unlawful transport of an undocumented person

Rafael Anchia (D-103)

HB 530 - Law enforcement training for human trafficking

Rafael Anchia (D-103)

HB 533 Relating to civil liability for the trafficking of persons.

Patricia Harless - (R-126)

HB 622 - Relating to the suspension of certain licenses held by employers for the knowing employment of persons not lawfully present in the United States.

New Program Enhances Identifying and Deporting Criminal Aliens in 6 Southwest Texas Counties

Now criminal and immigration records of all detainees to be checked

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - Six southwest Texas counties have been added to a growing list of law enforcement agencies throughout the state that are receiving access to a program developed by the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS); this program is expected to bolster local efforts to identify dangerous deportable criminal aliens. Maverick, Val Verde, Kinney, Zavala, Real and Uvalde counties have been added to the program known as "Secure Communities."

The program, administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), streamlines the process for ICE to determine if an individual in local custody is a potentially deportable criminal alien. Under the program, the immigration records, if any, of every individual booked into the county will be checked.

Formerly as part of that booking process, arrestees' fingerprints were taken and checked for criminal history information against the DOJ biometric system maintained by the FBI. With the implementation of Secure Communities, the fingerprints of arrested individuals will now be simultaneously checked against both the FBI's criminal history records and the biometrics-based immigration records maintained by DHS.

If an individual's fingerprints match those of a person in the DHS fingerprint system, the new automated process will notify ICE and the participating agency submitting the fingerprints. ICE will evaluate each case to determine the individual's immigration status and take appropriate enforcement action. Top priority will be given to offenders who pose a threat to the public safety, such as aliens with prior convictions for major drug offenses, murder, rape, robbery, and kidnapping.



Sen. Hutchison Introduces \$500 Million Border Law Enforcement Legislation *Would Establish DOJ Grant Program with Focus on Border Communities*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), today filed legislation that would create a \$500 million grant funding program at the U.S. Department of Justice with a direct focus on helping border communities fight narcoterrorism.

“Our border law enforcement personnel are under assault and the Congress must provide the funding they need,” said **Sen. Hutchison**. “Federal funding for combating narcotics trafficking must focus on the communities along the border that are on the frontlines.”

The Border Law Enforcement Relief Act of 2008 will create and authorize \$100 million for each of the 2009-2013 fiscal years in federal grant funding, with two-thirds designated for border communities within 100 miles of the northern and southern borders. One-third of the grant funding will be designated for law enforcement agencies across the country that are affected by border-related criminal activity.

* * *

Department of Homeland Security

100,000 Parents of Citizens Were Deported Over 10 Years

By Michael Falcone The New York Times, February 14, 2009
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/14/us/14immig.html>

Washington, DC -- Of nearly 2.2 million immigrants deported in the decade ended 2007, more than 100,000 were the parents of children who, having been born in the United States, were American citizens, according to a report issued Friday by the Department of Homeland Security.

But the department lacks data that might have addressed questions left unanswered by the report, like the number of American children who were left behind in the United States or, alternatively, exited the

country with their deported parents. Nor could the report say in how many instances both parents of such children were deported.

Similarly, said Representative José E. Serrano, Democrat of New York, since no one knows how many children a given deportee had, the number of affected children could be much higher than 108,434, the exact number of deported parents of American citizens.

'If they took their children back,' he said of the deportees, 'then technically we deported an American citizen. No matter which side of the immigration issue you fall on, there's something wrong with the notion of kicking American citizens out of their own country.'

Mr. Serrano, who represents a heavily Hispanic district in the Bronx, is vice chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees spending on the department. He has introduced legislation that would allow immigration judges to take family status into account when deciding on deportations.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a policy institute in Washington that supports tighter controls on immigration, said immigrant parents of children born here should not receive special treatment.

'Should those parents get off the hook just because their kids are put in a difficult position?' Mr. Krikorian said. 'Children often suffer because of the mistakes of their parents.'

* * *

Federal Immigration Legislation FAIR

Immigration-related bills introduced in the House include:

H.R. 19

Title: To require employers to conduct employment

eligibility verification. Sponsor: Rep Calvert, Ken [CA-44]

H.R. 126

Title: To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit citizenship at birth, merely by virtue of birth in the United States, to persons with citizen or legal resident mothers. Sponsor: Rep Gallegly, Elton [CA-24] .

H.R. 373

Title: To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to render inadmissible and deportable certain aliens convicted of drunk driving, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Flake, Jeff [AZ-6]

H.R. 878

Title: To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make changes related to family-sponsored immigrants and to reduce the number of such immigrants. Sponsor: Rep Gingrey, Phil [GA-11]

H.R. 892

Title: To deny certain Federal funds to any institution of higher education that admits as students aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States. Sponsor: Rep Myrick, Sue Wilkins [NC-9]

H.R. 997

The English Language Unity Act. To make English the official language. Sponsor: Rep Steve King (R-Iowa) has reintroduced his bill.

H.R. 764:

To require that ballots used in Federal elections be generally printed only in English and to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to modify the requirement that certain jurisdictions provide ballots and other voting materials in languages other than English, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep. Dean Heller [R-NV]

Immigration-related bills introduced in the Senate include:

S. 84

Title: A bill to close the loophole that allowed the 9/11 hijackers to obtain credit cards from United States banks that financed their terrorist activities, to ensure that illegal immigrants cannot obtain credit cards to evade United States immigration laws, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Vitter, David [LA]

S.91

Title: A bill to reduce the amount of financial assistance provided to the Government of Mexico in response to the illegal border crossings from Mexico into the United States, which serve to dissipate the political discontent with the higher unemployment rate within Mexico. Sponsor: Sen. Vitter, David [LA]

S.203

Title: A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements for participation in the visa waiver program and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [CA]

S. 205

Title: A bill to authorize additional resources to identify and eliminate illicit sources of firearms smuggled into Mexico for use by violent drug trafficking organizations, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [NM]

S.339

Title: A bill to provide financial aid to local law enforcement officials along the Nation's borders, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [NM]

* * *

Keeping the homeland secure goes far beyond just keeping the bad guys out. It involves a large number of responsibilities, from controlling immigration to protecting the supply chain and infrastructure of the world's greatest economy.

www.fortune.com/adsections

* * *

Mexico's 'Failed State' Threat

http://www.theweek.com/article/index/92337/Mexicos_failed_state_threat

A new Pentagon study "concludes that Mexico is at risk of becoming a failed state," said Joel Kurtzman in The Wall Street Journal, thanks to its ongoing "vicious drug war." The violence and corruption are so bad that Mexico, like Pakistan, could see a

"wholesale collapse of civil government." President Felipe Calderón, "to his credit," has sent 45,000 troops and 5,000 federal police to fight the drug traffickers, but the U.S. needs to do more, too.

The U.S. has already pledged \$1.4 billion to "professionalize Mexico's military and civil forces," said Investor's Business Daily in an editorial. But "in an era of big bailouts," we can give more. We should also prepare "a military surge" to protect our southern border. "A collapsed state will bring millions of Mexicans spilling over our border," probably including criminals, so this is more than a Mexican problem.

"To paraphrase an old saying, Mexico's closest ally in this pursuit, the United States, also happens to be its worst enemy," said Raul Yzaguirre in Arizona's Tucson Citizen. Mexico's drug lords are winning only because of America's "huge demand for drugs" and easy supply of powerful weapons. Until the U.S. curbs its addiction problem, "the killing in Mexico will continue."

Worse, while Mexico and Colombia "bleed themselves to death fighting 'wars on drugs' driven by the United States," said Mexico's La Jornada in an editorial (via WorldMeets.us), the U.S. "political class" focuses on "persecuting" Latino immigrants and profiting from the "voluminous trafficking in weapons." So when the Bush administration talks of a Pakistan-like "failed state" in Mexico, it does so "with obvious exaggeration and bad faith."

No, "I'd bet money," said Rod Dreher in Beliefnet, that President-elect Obama "will have to fully militarize the US-Mexico border before he leaves office." And he might even have to "invade Mexico" to "fight the narcotraffickers and prop up the government." The only questions are how and when.

* * *



Surge in Asylum Seeking Mexicans Taxing Already Overworked Immigration System

[http://www.foxnews.com:80/
story/0,2933,496925,00.html](http://www.foxnews.com:80/story/0,2933,496925,00.html)

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2,231 Mexicans sought asylum in the United States in fiscal 2008 – up from 1,366 in 2006, before drug violence in Mexico began to escalate. And it is not just the number of applicants that is increasing – the number of approved applications has more than doubled from 61 in 2006 to 123 in 2008.

* * *

A Rising Share: Hispanics and Federal Crime

"A Rising Share: Hispanics and Federal Crime," Mark Hugo Lopez, Associate Director, Pew Hispanic Center

Sharp growth in illegal immigration and increased enforcement of immigration laws have altered the ethnic composition of offenders sentenced in federal courts. In 2007, Latinos accounted for 40% of all sentenced federal offenders--more than triple their share (13%) of the total U.S. adult population. The share of all sentenced offenders who were Latino in 2007 was up from 23% in 1991, according to an analysis of data from the United States Sentencing Commission (USSC) by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Moreover, by 2007, immigration offenses represented nearly one-quarter (24%) of all federal convictions, up from just 7% in 1991. Among those sentenced for immigration offenses in 2007, 80% were Hispanic.

This heightened focus on immigration enforcement has also changed the citizenship profile of federal offenders. In 2007, Latinos without U.S. citizenship represented 29% of all federal offenders. Among all Latino offenders, some 72% were not U.S. citizens, up from 61% in 1991. By contrast, a much smaller share of white offenders (8%) and black offenders (6%) who were sentenced in federal courts in 2007 were not U.S. citizens.

Among sentenced immigration offenders, most were convicted of unlawfully entering or remaining in the U.S. Fully 75% of Latino offenders sentenced for immigration crimes in 2007 were convicted of entering the U.S. unlawfully or residing in the country without authorization.

Hispanics who were convicted of any federal offense were more likely than non-Hispanics to be sentenced to prison. But among all federal offenders sentenced to prison, Hispanics were also more likely than blacks or whites to receive a shorter prison term.

* * *

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

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