



# Hold Their Feet to the Fire

## A National Drive for Immigration Reform

**Support REAL ID Act**—It will be inexcusable if Congress fails to approve legislation implementing recommendations of the 9/11 Commission that were omitted from last year's Intelligence Reform Act. Long overdue, this legislation will prevent terrorists, criminal and illegal aliens from getting driver's licenses by requiring proof of legal residence. The legislation will also tighten U.S. asylum laws to stop the practice of terrorists and others who have successfully "gamed" our laws to gain access to the United States illegitimately. Finally, the legislation will at long last close a three mile gap in the San Diego/Mexico border fence.

**No Amnesty**—No program that rewards illegal immigration by forgiving violators of U.S. immigration law, including both illegal aliens and their employers, is acceptable to the American public. Such a program is an amnesty regardless of the creatively misleading language used by its proponents to fool the American public. Amnesty is totally unacceptable whether it is aimed to benefit illegal alien students and their families, agricultural workers, "guestworkers," or any other class of illegal aliens.

**Secure U.S. Borders**—The Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 authorized 10,000 new Border Patrol officers over the course of the next five years; 2,000 in each year. Even though President Bush supported this increase, he only asked for 210 new border patrol officers next year. Protecting U.S. borders is not optional for the U.S. government; it is essential to homeland security. In addition, the military must be deployed on our borders until the Border Patrol is sufficiently staffed to control illegal immigration.

**Detention Space Needed to End "Catch and Release" Policy**—The Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 authorized 40,000 new federal detention beds for illegal aliens over the course of the next five years; 8,000 beds in each year. President Bush also supported this increase, but asked for funding of only 1,920 detention beds next year. Without enough space to hold these lawbreakers, the government simply sets these individuals free on the promise that they will show up for a deportation hearing. The public is on to this "wink and nod" sham approach to immigration enforcement and demands that it cease.

**Enforce Immigration Laws in the Interior**—The Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 authorized 4,000 new interior enforcement personnel over the course of the next five years; 800 in each year. President Bush supported this provision as well, but asked for funding of only 143 new interior investigators next year. Unfortunately, this policy too represents an unofficial "wink and nod" sham policy designed to make sure employers will never face sanctions for deliberately hiring illegal aliens. In this case, however, the failure to enforce immigration laws in the interior of the United States also means illegal aliens with deportation orders against them or those who are otherwise criminal aliens are free to prey on the American public. Enough is enough!

**Sanctuary Policies Aid and Abet Illegal Immigration**—The practice in numerous local jurisdictions and the entire state of Maine that forbids local and state law enforcement from asking the immigration status of suspects is as insane as it is unacceptable to the American public. Legislation to penalize these jurisdictions by denying federal “first responder” funding must be enacted. Legislation is also required to provide federal incentives encouraging state and local law enforcement to assist federal authorities.

**Stop Displacing American Workers**—Illegal immigration and guestworker visas displace American workers, depress wages, and cause deteriorating working conditions in many sectors of the U.S. economy. Unless Congress is prepared to preside over the utter destruction of the middle class standard of living in the United States, this must stop. The President’s guestworker program is nothing less than a dagger pointed at the heart of the middle class, because it is unlimited and available to all sectors of the U.S. economy. While welcomed by business, this program would place virtually every American job on the auction block for the cheapest bidder. Instead of this nonsense, an aggressive regimen of employer sanctions and worker eligibility verification must be made mandatory.

**Taxpayers are Fed Up with the Cost of Illegal Immigration**—Illegal immigration may be cheap for business, but it is incredibly expensive for federal, state and local taxpayers. Illegal immigration costs taxpayers tens of billions of dollars each year between incarceration costs, healthcare costs, education costs, welfare, and other public benefits obtained through fraud. This burden must be reduced and the only way to do so is by enforcing the law against employers who hire illegal aliens as well as the illegal aliens themselves.

**No Social Security for Illegal Aliens**—It is rank hypocrisy either to ignore or bemoan the insolvency of social security while simultaneously engineering a U.S./Mexico Social Security Totalization agreement. Yet that is precisely what President Bush is doing. No other country sends millions of illegal aliens to the United States, opening wide the door to potential fraudulent claims for social security benefits. Congress should immediately pass Rep. Virgil Goode's (R-VA) H.Con.Res.50, disapproving the agreement. Congress should also immediately approve Rep. Dana Rohrabacher's (R-CA) H.R. 1438, legislation prohibiting illegal aliens from cashing in on the Social Security system for any period of work done without federal work authorization.

**Repeal Much-Abused Diversity Visa Lottery Program**—Congress must approve H.R. 1219 by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), legislation to eliminate the much-abused diversity visa lottery program. This program awards over 50,000 green cards each year based on the luck of the draw with virtually no consideration of an individual’s skills, education or other characteristics that might be of value to the United States or the U.S. economy. The program is riddled with fraud, highly abused by illegal aliens, and has been used in the past by would-be terrorists.