



### **You're Making a Difference by Supporting FAIR**

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See Page 3

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See Page 5

### **A Bipartisan Stab at Immigration Reform**

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See Page 6

### **Message from the President**

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See Page 7

### **FAIR's Tennessee Study of Illegal Immigration Costs Draws Broad Attention in the Volunteer State**

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See Page 8

### **Around the Country**

See Page 9

### **In Oklahoma and New York, Immigration Reform Activists Take Different Roads to Victory**

Oklahoma and New York are very different states in almost every way. But, in November, they demonstrated that they share common ground when it comes to enforcing laws against illegal immigration.

See Page 10

### **Spread the Word**

See Page 13

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All of us, from time to time, ask ourselves the very important question: Is anything I'm doing making a difference? Often it is a difficult question to answer. But for those of us who work at FAIR and those of you who support the organization with your time, energy and money, the answer is clear. In 2007, we all made a huge difference.

The year began with a seismic shift in political power in Washington. After a dozen years under Republican leadership, Democrats assumed the majority role in Congress. The Democratic leadership, though not rank and file Democrats, were clearly more inclined to promote amnesty for illegal aliens than a sensible policy of enforcement. The pro-amnesty members of Congress who took control of key committee positions in the House and Senate found a willing ally in the Republican president sitting in the White House.

Thus, when the year began, there was reason for great concern. Every special interest group seeking to benefit at the public's expense from immigration policy came to town ready to stake their claim. But, while the pro-amnesty, open immigration lobby was getting ready to take a victory lap around the Capitol, FAIR recognized that the American public was not ready to surrender. Together, we mobilized one of the most remarkable grassroots efforts and successfully confronted a political establishment that seemed determined to ignore the will of the American people.

**Strengthening our Activist Base.** Over the past several years, FAIR has invested heavily in immigration reform at the local level. Our national field staff has worked with activists all across the country to build local immigration reform organizations. Primarily, these groups have focused on making a difference at the state and local levels, but as critical legislation came before Congress, these groups served as a network to educate people about the content of these bills and provided the public with opportunities for their voices to be heard.

**Hold Their Feet to the Fire.** Recognizing the important role that talk radio plays in informing politically active citizens and the forum it provides for ordinary people to have their voices heard, FAIR brought together 37 of the nation's leading talk radio personalities for an unprecedented radio event in Washington in April. Over the course of the event, the participating radio hosts devoted three days of airtime to the immigration issue, interviewing dozens of Members of Congress and leading immigration policy experts. Hold Their Feet to the Fire served to energize this important medium and created a strong network that played a critical role in defeating a massive illegal alien amnesty and continues to serve as a means to mobilize the ever-growing immigration reform movement.

**The Defeat of the Bush-Kennedy Illegal Alien Amnesty.** Just three weeks after Hold Their Feet to the Fire, the Senate introduced "comprehensive" immigration legislation that was, in reality, a massive illegal alien amnesty and guest worker bill. FAIR used its growing and engaged activist base combined with the newly-formed media network for the next five weeks — around the

clock — to analyze the Bush-Kennedy legislation and inform the American public what it would do to this nation if passed.

The result of these efforts was a torrent of public opposition so intense and unanticipated that it surprised everyone. In the end, the united voice of the American people defeated both the political establishment and a host of well-funded pro-amnesty special interest groups.

**The Defeat of Mini-Amnesties.** Faced with the realization that the American public would not tolerate another massive illegal alien amnesty, congressional leaders attempted to break up the massive amnesty bill and pass amnesty piece by piece. On three occasions, pro-amnesty members of Congress attempted to pass the DREAM Act — designed as an amnesty program for students and younger illegal aliens. Again, FAIR's analysis and ability to disseminate information about this amnesty proposal helped defeat each attempt to sneak it past the American public. A second amnesty proposal for agricultural workers — the "AgJobs" amnesty — was ultimately tabled after the repeated defeat of the DREAM Act.

**Bipartisan Enforcement Legislation.** A direct consequence of the repeated rejection of amnesty by the public was the introduction, late in 2007, of meaningful immigration enforcement legislation. With true bipartisan support, the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement Act (SAVE) offers a comprehensive plan for immigration enforcement that the American public has been demanding. Once again, members of Congress of both parties who support sensible immigration reform are looking to FAIR to help generate widespread public support for this measure.

**Progress at the State and Local Level.** In addition to passage of landmark immigration enforcement legislation in Oklahoma, FAIR and the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) have been inundated with requests from state and local government officials for assistance in formulating and promoting policies that permit them to do what the federal government has been unwilling to do. While Washington continues to drag its feet, true immigration reform is very definitely advancing in nearly every region of the country.

## **FAIR's Susan Tully Among 47 "Influential Americans" in PBS's "Dialogues in Democracy"**

Jim Lehrer, host of PBS's NewsHour, brought together 47 "influential Americans" for a four-day conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, examining the critical issues that face American democracy in the 21st century. Among that elite group, which included people as diverse as the first female Indy race car driver to the founder of Craig's List, was FAIR's national field director, Susan Tully.

The event culminated with a national town hall meeting at the historic House of Burgesses in Colonial Williamsburg, to be aired nationally on PBS. Over the course of four days, the participants broke into smaller groups and discussed a wide range of issues, including immigration, health care, education, Social Security and the war in Iraq. "The exercise was very surprising to me," said Tully. While the participants were able to reach a consensus on just two issues, "everyone agreed the process we used in the exercise was one that Congress needs to reinstitute." And while democracy is alive and well in America, the continued vitality of our republic requires that "Americans get up off their chairs and couches and become part of the process to make it work."

Being chosen to participate among such an elite group of thinkers and leaders is a real tribute to the work and influence of FAIR and its leadership in promoting rational immigration policies. It is also a tribute to Susan who, more than anyone else at FAIR, comes in contact with a broad range of Americans on a daily basis.

# A Bipartisan Stab at Immigration Reform

## *SAVE Act Offers Real Enforcement of Immigration Laws*

After witnessing the stunning defeat of the “comprehensive immigration reform” bill in the Senate earlier this year that amounted to amnesty for illegal aliens and massive infusions of foreign guest workers for business interests, many House members decided to take a different approach.

In early November, Representatives Heath Shuler (D-N.C.) and Brian Bilbray (R-Calif.) introduced the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement Act (SAVE), H.R. 4088. Unlike the amnesty bills debated earlier this year, the SAVE Act is a bipartisan attempt to address mass illegal immigration by instituting common sense measures to deter illegal immigration and convince millions of illegal aliens who are already here to depart on their own.

The SAVE Act does not address every problem in our immigration system, but it does go after the root of the problem — easy access to jobs by illegal aliens.

Twenty-one years after employer sanctions were enacted, making it unlawful to hire illegal aliens, the SAVE Act would institute a uniform mandatory verification procedure for every worker in the U.S. The gaping loophole in the law has been the lack of a requirement to verify work eligibility and the widespread use of fraudulent documents.

The broad support for the bill in the House and the bipartisan sponsorship also attest to the growing importance that the American public places on immigration enforcement. At a news conference introducing H.R. 4088, eight freshman Democratic House members spoke of the need for meaningful immigration enforcement. Overall, there are 112 cosponsors on the bill, almost evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans from all parts of the United States.

In spite of the broad bipartisan support, it is unclear whether the SAVE Act will ever reach the House floor. House leadership has been silent on the bill and will need prodding from the public in order for any action to happen. The more co-sponsors the bill has, the more difficult it will be for the leadership to block consideration of H.R. 4088. A complete list of current co-sponsors can be found on FAIR’s web site, [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org) under “Policy and Legislation” for 110th Congress.

## Message from the President

This time of year often evokes moments of reflection. We review the past year, the accomplishments and the changes and also consider the future. As FAIR looks back over the past year, we are proud of our many successes in 2007: the defeat of the amnesty bill, our incredibly successful Hold Their Feet to the Fire event, the growth of the immigration reform movement, and the increased attention to the immigration issue by the public, media and Members of Congress. All of these accomplishments are highlighted in the lead story of this issue.

In particular, I want to recognize a few people who have shown an extraordinary dedication to this cause, as members of our Seventh Generation Society. These have made a true contribution to America's future by leaving a gift to FAIR in 2007 and the immigration reform movement as their legacy. In doing so, they have helped ensure the continuing effectiveness of the immigration reform mission.

- Rosemary Arnold
- Raymond & Charlotte Kiser
- Edward McNally
- Robert Morley
- Norman Nourse
- Gilbert Rochlin

Looking ahead, I expect 2008 to be another challenging year. In Washington, and around the nation, FAIR will continue to work for true immigration reform at the national, state and local levels. Through our legal affiliate, the Immigration Reform Law Institute, we will also defend the interests of the American people against an army of lawyers who hope to win in the courts what they have been unable to achieve through the political process.

On behalf of FAIR, I thank you for your support and hope that you will continue to be part of this historic effort to bring about true immigration reform.

## FAIR's Tennessee Study of Illegal Immigration Costs Draws Broad Attention in the Volunteer State

In order to be able to respond with hard facts to contentions by the pro-illegal alien lobby that illegal immigrants contribute more than they use in public services, FAIR's research director Jack Martin has undertaken a series of state cost studies. Several of them have already been serialized in previous issues of the FAIR Immigration Report.

Until now, the study of the costs of illegal immigration has been limited to states where illegal immigration has been a longstanding issue. Increasingly, however, mass illegal immigration is becoming a nationwide phenomenon affecting all parts of the country. A new report by FAIR, *The Costs of Illegal Immigration to Tennesseans* finds that even in parts of the country that have only recently begun to experience large scale illegal immigration, the price tag is significant.

According to *The Costs of Illegal Immigration to Tennesseans*, the annual bill for providing K-12 education, health care, and incarceration of criminal illegal aliens now runs \$285 million annually. While these numbers pale in comparison to the costs in places like California, Texas, and New York, they represent a significant burden on state taxpayers and the costs are growing rapidly.

*The Costs of Illegal Immigration to Tennesseans* has gained widespread attention in the Tennessee media. The November 25 edition of *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, one of the state's leading newspapers, devoted an editorial to the FAIR cost study, entitled "The high cost of illegals in Tennessee." The editorial noted:

"The most principled argument against permissiveness toward illegal immigration is that it robs the United States of the sovereign right to protect the integrity of our borders. That has long-term negative consequences that are not always easy to quantify.

"But in a new study, the Federation for American Immigration Reform attaches some specific, troubling dollar figures to the costs to Tennesseans of the more than 100,000 illegal aliens who live in our state."

As an organization devoted to educating and informing the public about issues related to immigration, this sort of coverage of FAIR's research is both gratifying and has a real impact on the debate. Given the rapidly escalating costs revealed in FAIR's report, it is not surprising that eight of Tennessee's members of the U.S. House of Representatives are co-sponsors of the SAVE Act, a bipartisan bill to enact sensible immigration enforcement policies.

## Around the Country

### **MISSOURI**

“The growing influence of grassroots immigration reform groups is evident in Missouri,” states FAIR’s southern regional field representative, Joyce Mucci, who is based in Kansas City, Missouri. State policy already requires applicants to show proof of legal residency in order to obtain driver’s licenses, but on November 26, Gov. Matt Blunt announced new legislation that would make the restriction even tighter by affirmatively stating that Missouri will not issue licenses to illegal aliens. Moreover, the proposed law would establish penalties for anyone aiding illegal aliens obtain licenses. At a press conference Gov. Blunt stated that, “Missouri will not become a zone of lawlessness ... Rather than wait on Washington, we will continue to take steps to enforce immigration law at the state level.”

### **MICHIGAN**

A sign of the times: Michigan, a key political swing state, is getting serious about immigration enforcement at the state level. A group of Democratic lawmakers put together a package of legislation in November that would give the state authority to crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. With the success of the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) helping legislatures in other states craft bills that stand up to legal challenges, Michigan lawmakers are relying on IRLI for advice as they proceed with their legislative efforts.

### **ARKANSAS**

Another sign of the times: For years after enacting legislation that allows state and local police to receive training in immigration law enforcement, the federal government never even bothered to write regulations to implement the policy, much less train any local police. Now the demand for such training is growing so great that the feds are being forced to prioritize who gets training. The Arkansas State Police, which has requested training for its officers, has been told by ICE that before they can receive such training the state will have to demonstrate they have sufficient jail space to hold the illegal aliens they arrest.

# In Oklahoma and New York, Immigration Reform Activists Take Different Roads to Victory

Oklahoma and New York are very different states in almost every way. But, in November, they demonstrated that they share common ground when it comes to enforcing laws against illegal immigration.

In Oklahoma, local political leaders responded to the will of the public and enacted sensible new state laws aimed at making it difficult to live in the state illegally. That law, known as House Bill 1804, went into effect on November 1.

In New York, Gov. Eliot Spitzer ignited a political firestorm by attempting to use his executive powers to grant driver's licenses to illegal aliens. After two months of relentless opposition by the public and political leaders from both parties, Spitzer finally abandoned his plan in mid-November.

Both Oklahoma and New York represent landmark political victories for the immigration reform movement. And they demonstrate that in the absence of any decisive action coming out of Washington to address this national problem, the focus of the immigration reform battle is shifting to state and local governments. What played out in these two states also confirms the effectiveness of FAIR's national effort to educate, organize, and empower people all across the country to take an active role in influencing immigration policies close to home.

## **OKLAHOMA**

H.B. 1804 includes a broad set of provisions designed to send a very clear and simple message: Living illegally in Oklahoma will not be rewarded. Among the important features of the law are requirements that police verify immigration status whenever arrests are made or when an individual cannot produce any valid form of identification. It also requires employers in the state to verify the legal status of workers, and individuals to show proof of legal residence when applying for public benefits.

This significant accomplishment in Oklahoma, and in other states, was achieved because the citizens of that state organized and put pressure on their elected officials to act. FAIR is proud of the significant role that we played in helping bring together concerned citizens in Oklahoma, and of our work with members of the state legislature who passed H.B. 1804.

One of the driving forces behind passage of H.B. 1804 was the grassroots group, Immigration Reform for Oklahoma Now (IRON) and its leader Carol Helm. FAIR's national field director, Susan Tully, has worked closely with Ms. Helm for years, offering advice and strategic assistance as they worked locally for immigration enforcement. IRON itself became a model for other grassroots groups that FAIR has helped bring together across the country.

As concern about illegal immigration grew across the state, FAIR's field program and the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) also began working with members of the Oklahoma Legislature to craft legislation that would both serve the interests of law-abiding residents and conform to federal statute. Under the leadership of State Rep. Randy Terrill and State Senator James Williamson, IRLI helped legislators write this landmark state bill that was passed with bipartisan support. At the annual meeting of FAIR's Board of Advisors in September, Rep. Terrill publicly acknowledged the important assistance provided by FAIR and IRLI.

H.B. 1804 has successfully withstood the inevitable legal challenges by the illegal alien advocacy network with the legal expertise of IRLI. A request for an injunction to block H.B. 1804 before it went into effect on November 1, brought by the National Coalition of Latino Clergy, Inc., was rejected by U.S. District Judge James Payne.

### Oklahoma a Model for Other States

The success and popularity of the immigration enforcement legislation enacted in Oklahoma is inspiring other activist groups to press for similar legislation in their states. All of the groundwork for this type of action has been laid through the cultivation of locally-based grassroots groups throughout the country. FAIR's southern field representative, Joyce Mucci, is working closely with activists in Kansas who want to replicate a version of H.B. 1804 in that state. IRON founder Carol Helm has also offered advice to other grassroots groups in numerous states around the country.

### **NEW YORK**

While implementation of H.B. 1804 in Oklahoma demonstrates the ability of local groups, working with national organizations like FAIR and IRLI, to make affirmative gains in the battle for true immigration reform, New York demonstrates the ability of local activists to confront and thwart political leaders who seek to accommodate illegal immigration. With some 12,000 members in New York, FAIR and locally based immigration reform groups mounted withering opposition to the governor's plan.

According to polls taken in the state, more than 70 percent of New Yorkers said they were opposed to Spitzer's plan to grant licenses to illegal aliens. Faced with that sort of overwhelming public opposition, lawmakers across New York, including many from Spitzer's own party, broke with the governor and came out against his proposal. At the same time, the across-the-board public opposition in New York dispelled the myth that demands for immigration enforcement are limited to a narrow, but vocal, slice of the political spectrum. Rather, support for immigration enforcement cuts across most ideological lines.

After hoping to placate critics by revising his plan to include a three-tiered licensing system in New York, Spitzer finally abandoned the effort altogether on November 13, acknowledging that public opposition was simply too overwhelming and that the controversy was jeopardizing his ability to address other priorities in New York.

## New York Will Influence Other States

Just as Oklahoma has inspired other states to move forward with sensible immigration enforcement policies, New York's experiment with offering driver's licenses to illegal aliens has served as a warning to politicians in other states against pursuing such policies. Less than a week after Gov. Spitzer retreated from his plan in New York, Oregon's Gov. Ted Kulongoski issued an executive order tightening up his state's driver's licenses issuance policies. Oregon has been one of the states that does not require proof of legal residence to obtain a driver's license.

In issuing his order, Kulongoski noted that, "It appears that criminal organizations both inside and outside Oregon are using Oregon's permissive standards in order to assist persons to illegally obtain driver licenses and identification cards from the DMV." It also appears that leaders at the state level are increasingly reluctant to face the sort of political trial-by-fire that confronted Eliot Spitzer in New York.

## Spread the Word

The FAIR Immigration Report is distributed to FAIR members as our appreciation for your support. But, as we know, there are millions upon millions of Americans who share our concerns and want to see true reform of our immigration policies.

If you regularly visit blog sites on the Internet to get news and information that you are not getting from the mainstream media, there are millions of others who are doing the same thing. If you read something in the FAIR newsletter or in one of our legislative alerts that you think others would find informative, we encourage you to post the information, or post a link on the blogs that you are reading.

Information is power, and you have the power to spread the information!