

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maryland has a rapidly growing illegal alien population of about 250,000 persons, more than quadrupling since 2000.¹ Between 2000 and 2008, the state's foreign-born population has grown by 34.6 percent while its native-born population increased by 3.3 percent. Public school enrollment of students who require special instruction in English has soared even more, rising by 93.5 percent from 2000 to 2008 while overall enrollment declined slightly.

Maryland's illegal alien population represents a major burden on the state's taxpayers and on the state budget. The costs imposed on law-abiding Marylanders are unfair and unwelcome even in the best of times, but are especially burdensome at a time when the state has been cutting jobs and funding for schools and health care.² Furthermore, it is facing what the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute projects will be a \$2 billion deficit in the 2010 budget.³

In 2008, the foreign-born population in Maryland represented nearly one in every eight residents (12.4%), and illegal aliens constituted more than one-third of that immigrant population.⁴

Maryland's illegal immigrant population costs the state's taxpayers more than \$1.4 billion per year for education, medical care and incarceration. The annual fiscal burden amounts to about \$790 per Maryland household headed by a native-born resident.

In addition to the fiscal cost estimates in this study, there are additional costs associated with illegal immigration that should be kept in mind by policymakers when they focus on this fiscal cost burden. Foreign remittances sent abroad by the illegal alien population constitute a major drain on the state's economy. The Inter-American Development Bank estimated that remittances from Maryland just to Latin America and the Caribbean amounted to \$921 million in 2006. If this amount had been earned by American workers, it would have been spent locally, and it would have generated sales, production and jobs in the state as well as increased tax collection.

ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION

(in thousands)



The more than \$1.4 billion dollars in costs incurred by Maryland taxpayers annually result from outlays in the following areas:

\$1.4 billion

MARYLAND'S ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT POPULATION COSTS STATE TAXPAYERS MORE THAN \$1.4 BILLION PER YEAR.

■ Education

Based on estimates of the illegal immigrant population in Maryland and documented costs of K-12 schooling, Marylanders spend more than \$966 million annually on education for an estimated 80,800 children of illegal aliens. An additional amount of nearly \$250 million is spent on providing special English instruction to an estimated 35,000 children of illegal aliens. About 9.6 percent of the K-12 public school students in Maryland are children of illegal aliens.

■ Health Care

Taxpayer-funded, unreimbursed medical outlays for health care provided to the state's illegal alien population amount to about \$167 million a year.

■ Incarceration

The cost of incarcerating illegal aliens in Maryland's state and county prisons amounts to about \$29 million a year — not including related law enforcement and judicial expenses or the monetary costs of the crimes that led to the incarceration.

Some state and local taxes are received from illegal immigrants — even from those working off the books. But, those same tax collections, or more likely an increased amount, would occur if the jobs were done by legal workers. So, unless it is illogically assumed that no legal U.S. or immigrant or foreign guestworker

would do the jobs now done by illegal workers, it makes little sense to consider this a true offset to the tax burden. The estimated amount of the taxes currently collected from the illegal workers is about \$204 million per year.

The fiscal costs of illegal immigration to Maryland's taxpayers do not end with these three major cost areas. They would be considerably higher if other cost areas such as assistance programs for needy families or welfare benefits for American workers displaced by illegal alien workers or resulting from depressed wages were included in the calculation.

The current proposal to adopt an amnesty for the illegal aliens would not lessen the burden if enacted. Rather, it would increase the access of this population to additional social welfare benefits and allow them to legally apply for the state's reverse tax benefit known as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

These costs are not inevitable. State and local policymakers have several means at their disposal to discourage settlement of illegal aliens. Maryland and some local jurisdictions, on the other hand, are permissive towards illegal immigration. Marylanders concerned about the impact on their state and local communities should demand an end to those policies.

INTRODUCTION

While the primary responsibility for combating illegal immigration rests with the federal government, there are many measures that state and local governments can take to combat the problem. Marylanders should not be expected to assume this growing burden from illegal immigration simply because local businesses or other special interests benefit from being able to employ lower cost workers. The federal government has provided tools to state and local governments to assist in combating the influx of illegal residents. The state and local jurisdictions may use these tools to systematically collect information on illegal alien use of taxpayer-funded services and to identify employers of illegal workers. With greater information, policymakers are better prepared to work cooperatively with the federal government to locate and deport criminal aliens and absconders and to hold em-

ployers accountable if they break the law by hiring illegal workers.

The federal government has empowered local law enforcement agencies to exercise immigration law enforcement authority after completion of special training programs. The program — known as 287(g) for the immigration law section that authorizes it — is in operation only in Frederick County so far. Testifying before Congress in March 2009, County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins said the program has been an overwhelming success and is supported by ninety percent of local residents.⁵ Additional local-federal cooperation is available in the Safe Communities program. It provides for the submission of arrestees' fingerprints to the Department of Homeland Security to identify deportable criminal aliens.⁶

BACKGROUND

Among the states, Maryland had the nation's 19th highest number of illegal immigrants in its population in 2000 according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The official estimate was that there were 56,000 aliens residing illegally in the state at that time.⁷ Between 2000 and 2007 the federal government's estimate of the illegal alien population nationwide grew by 68 percent, but a new federal estimate for Maryland has not been made. Our estimate is there are about 250,000 illegal aliens in the state, and that estimate is similar to the estimates of other researchers. That estimate places Maryland 11th among the states for the largest illegal alien population.

In addition to the current illegal alien population, there are thousands of former illegal aliens residing in Maryland who have gained legal residence since 1986 as a result of the amnesty enacted in that year and other subsequently adopted smaller legalization provisions.⁸

Not only has Maryland's illegal alien population grown rapidly according to our estimate and that of other researchers, the overall foreign-born population has shot up since the 1965 change in U.S. immigration law. This population, which includes illegal immigrants, has increased from fewer than 200,000 in 1980 to nearly 700,000 today.

This study looks at the fiscal costs to the state associated with illegal immigration. It does not focus on the goods and services produced by illegal alien workers, i.e., their “economic contribution,” because it may be assumed that if the work were essential, and illegal immigrants were unavailable, the same economic output and tax collections would result from legal workers. Arguably, tax collections would increase as employers paid higher wages to attract legal workers and wages would less often be paid ‘off the books’ in cash. Similarly, this study does not include the displacement costs incurred as a result of legal workers who are laid off or fail to get a job as a result of the hiring of illegal workers willing to work for lower wages. Those costs, which would include unemployment compensation,

welfare outlays, lost taxes, etc., are real, but outside the scope of this study. In September, 2009 unemployment in Maryland stood at 7.2 percent.⁹

Recognition by the federal government of the fact that illegal immigration represents a fiscal burden may be seen in the fact that the Congress has authorized and appropriated funds to assist state and local governments with uncompensated medical expenses for emergency care to the illegal alien population and incarceration of illegal immigrants. That is true to some extent also in the Title III federal funding to support Limited English Proficiency (LEP) instruction programs in public schools.

IDENTIFYING THE COSTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Data on public benefits for illegal aliens generally are not collected in any systematic fashion by the U.S. or state governments. That means that in most instances a description of those costs must be informed estimates. The starting point for those estimates is an estimate of the size of the illegal alien population. From that estimate, further estimates may be made of the probable size of the children of illegal aliens in public schools. Fortunately, officially collected data, such as the enrollment of students in LEP instruction in the public schools provides a reality check on the estimate of the student population attributable to illegal immigration. Another reality check is the volume of remittances being sent abroad from a given state. There are, nevertheless, other costs of illegal immigration that are not readily quantifiable such as the costs of programs for unemployed Americans where illegal workers have been hired in place of U.S. workers.

The absence of recorded data on illegal alien enrollment in schools, use of taxpayer-supported medical care, and other public services is not accidental. It is due in large part to the efforts of service providers, civil libertarians, business interests and immigrant support groups to thwart data collection efforts in order to keep these costs hidden from the taxpayers who bear the burden of paying for them. For example, the Maryland State Board of Education on March 24, 2009 released a ruling that Frederick County commissioners have no ‘valid public purpose’ in asking Frederick County Public Schools to collect information about students’ immigration status.¹⁰

Another example of these efforts to keep the cost of services to illegal aliens hidden may be seen in the opposition by health care providers, civil libertarians and illegal immigrant enablers to a proposed legislative re-

quirement that emergency health care providers collect and provide information on the cost of care provided to illegal alien patients in order to receive federal compensation. These groups went on record to oppose the data collection requirement, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services subsequently dropped its proposed regulation.¹¹

Because there are a number of fiscal costs of illegal immigration that are outside the scope of this study, the cost estimates in the study understate the total costs. Some of those costs areas are:

- Anti-gang policing, identity fraud, misdemeanor offenses, prosecution, indigent defense, adult probation, juvenile probation, etc.
- Foreign language interpretation and translation services, notably in the health care, law enforcement and judicial systems.
- Parental liaison, translation at PTA and other school meetings, and newsletters prepared in foreign languages to be sent home with illegal alien students.
- Increased insurance rates resulting from property crimes perpetrated by illegal immigrants, especially burglary and auto theft.
- Time lost from congestion, and property value loss in areas where illegal aliens congregate to seek day jobs.

Non-monetary costs, which are also worth noting, include issues such as degradation of the learning environment resulting from students with limited English language proficiency. Other examples include incon-

venience and poor health outcomes resulting from long waits to receive medical attention where illegal aliens contribute to congestion in the emergency admissions facilities of public hospitals, and the closure of emergency rooms due to rising uncompensated costs. Social cohesion may be strained by foreign language communications barriers, and rising income inequality associated with immigration. Finally, respect for the rule of law is eroded when an increasing share of the population lives illegally in the country, relies on stolen and counterfeit identities, and works in the underground economy. This is magnified when law enforcement officers are required to ignore this law-breaking activity.

SIZE OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT POPULATION

The estimate of the INS — before it merged into DHS — was that there were 56,000 illegal aliens in Maryland in 2000. That estimate excludes illegal aliens applying for asylum in order to be able to stay in the United States, those given Temporary Protected Status, and illegal aliens in the country for less than one year. In the 2002-2004 timeframe, the Pew Hispanic Center estimated the illegal alien population in Maryland at 225,000 persons. It increased that estimate to a range of 230,000 to 300,000 as of 2008.¹² Since then, that organization has estimated that nationally the illegal alien population has decreased.

FAIR’s estimate of the illegal alien population in Maryland in 2009 is about 250,000 persons. That is the 11th largest concentration of illegal aliens in the nation.

250,000

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PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL OUTLAYS

SIZE OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT K-12 STUDENT POPULATION

The GAO released a report in 2004 on difficulties in estimating state costs of illegal alien school children. It noted that data on legal status are not collected by most school systems, and that makes providing a precise estimate of the illegal alien population in public schools currently not possible.¹³ The study's conclusion did not mean, however, that estimates of the costs are inappropriate or invalid. The artificial barriers against collecting accurate data on the number of illegal aliens in public schools necessitate that the cost estimates in this study are ballpark estimates done for the purpose of increasing awareness of the general magnitude of the burden borne by Maryland taxpayers because of illegal immigration.

FAIR released in 2005 an estimate of the cost of Maryland's public education of children of illegal aliens.¹⁴ In that study, the annual cost to Marylanders was estimated to be \$280.8 million, with slightly more than two-fifths of that amount due to students who were illegal aliens and the remainder due to U.S.-born children of illegal aliens. That estimate was based on an average annual school cost of \$9,306 per student and an estimate of about 12,570 illegal alien students and 17,600 U.S.-born children of illegal aliens. That calculation did not include the additional costs of remedial and special English instruction. Because of the rapidly rising illegal alien population in the state and the rising costs of K-12 education, those costs today are significantly higher.

A recent study by the Pew Hispanic Center estimated that there are now nearly three times as many children

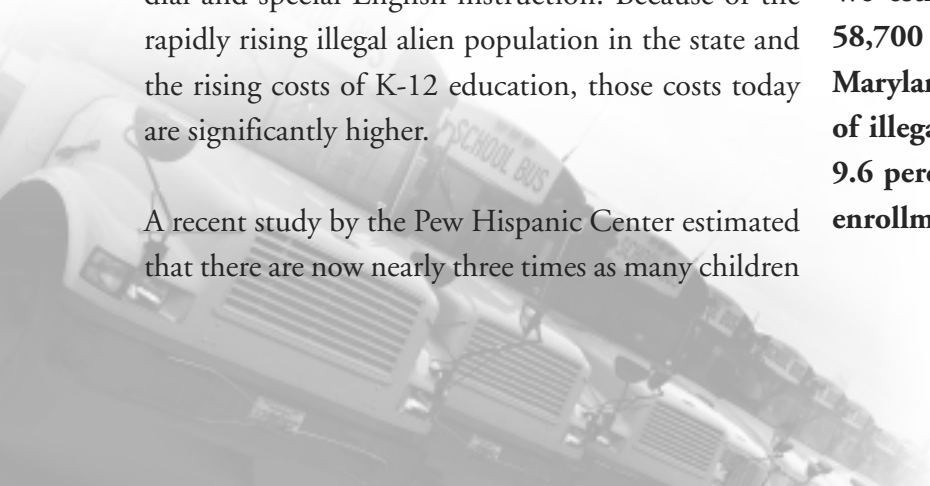
born here to illegal immigrant parents as children who are illegally in the United States (4 million compared to 1.5 million).¹⁵ Among the children of illegal aliens residing in Maryland, as many as three-quarters of are likely to be enrolled in K-12 public schooling. Moreover, of the one-quarter not currently enrolled, most are below school age and will enter the system within a few years.

In estimating the size of the illegal alien student population in the state's public schools, we have used our estimate of the illegal alien population in the state and the assumptions of the Pew study with regard to the balance between U.S.-born and foreign-born children of illegal aliens.

Based on our estimate of Maryland's illegal alien population, we estimate the current illegal alien enrollment in K-12 public schools is about 22,100 students.

That estimate of the illegal immigrant student population does not include the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens. They too, however, would not be in the Maryland public school system were it not for the illegal presence of their parents, and the cost of educating them is also a fiscal burden resulting from illegal immigration.¹⁶

We estimate that there likely are an additional 58,700 U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants in Maryland's schools. The combined 80,800 children of illegal aliens in public schools represent about 9.6 percent of the state's total K-12 public school enrollment.



COSTS OF EDUCATING THE CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data indicate that annual educational public school costs per pupil in Maryland rose to a level of \$11,975 in 2007.¹⁷ Adjusting for inflation, the present per student annual expenditure is likely to be about \$12,750. This average cost may be conservative because the cost of public education is probably higher in areas where the illegal alien population is concentrated, e.g., in Montgomery County. The authors of a 1994 Urban Institute study of the fiscal costs of illegal immigration explained, “We believe that undocumented aliens are more likely than other students to live in urban areas where per student expenses are relatively high.”¹⁸

The NCES data for the average per capita educational expense of K-12 public schooling in Maryland parsed that expenditure into the sources of funding.¹⁹ It found that a majority (54.6%) of funding was local, the second largest source was state funding (39.2%) and the remainder came from the federal government (6.2%) As this study focuses only on the in-state fiscal costs, we reduce the average expenditure to eliminate the federal funding. This leaves a per pupil average annual cost of about \$11,960.

The estimated cost of K-12 public schooling for the children of illegal aliens in Maryland amounts to nearly one billion dollars per year.

K-12 COSTS FOR CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL ALIENS (\$ millions)

Foreign-Born Number	Cost @	Outlay	U.S.-Born Number	Cost @	Outlay	Total
22,100	\$11,960	\$264.3	58,700	\$11,960	\$702.1	\$966.4

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION COSTS

Enrollment in Limited English Proficiency (LEP) classes in Maryland was 40,358 students in the 2007-2008 school year according to the Maryland Department of Education. That enrollment was 130 percent higher than ten years earlier. By comparison, overall K-12 enrollment in public schools over the same period would have dropped by 2.3 percent without the increase in LEP students.

The estimated size of the LEP enrollment is about half of the population of children of illegal aliens. Students

in this special, separate instruction are expected to eventually master English and enter regular classes. A decade ago, participation in LEP classes in Maryland was limited to two years, but that standard has been eliminated, and some students stay in these programs for many more years. Second, children of illegal aliens born and raised in the United States are less likely to need such assistance. For that reason, we estimate that about three-fourths of all LEP students are the children of illegal aliens and that more than nine-tenths of illegal alien students are in LEP classes, but less than seven-tenths of U.S.-born children of illegal aliens are similarly in LEP classes.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ENROLLMENT
(in thousands)



While not all LEP (or English Language Learner - ELL) students are children of illegal aliens, most of them presumably are.²⁰ With the exception of children of refugees, the children of immigrants legally admitted for permanent residence are likely to already speak English because the parents lived in the United States as nonimmigrants, or prepared for years to immigrate to the United States, or arrived from countries where English is taught in the schools.²¹

COST OF ENGLISH INSTRUCTION FOR THE CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

A 2004 report by the GAO estimated that the costs associated with English language instruction for limited English speakers adds significantly to the cost of normal instruction. The GAO noted:

“Bringing ELL-enrolled children up to the grade level of same age non-ELL-enrolled children has been estimated

to potentially increase costs by an additional 10 to 100 percent over usual per pupil costs; for students living in poverty (independent of ELL programs), the corresponding range of estimates is 20 to 100 percent. Bringing students characterized by both poverty and limited English proficiency up to average levels of achievement could potentially increase average costs by a larger amount — perhaps 30 to 200 percent over average per pupil costs.”²²

That implies a very broad range. In the case of Maryland, it implies an annual per pupil additional cost of LEP instruction of between \$1,200 and \$23,920, excluding federal support.

The LEP expenditures in 2008 according to the Maryland Department of Education were \$126,167,661. The federal share of that expenditure was \$346,335. The average expenditure per student excluding the federal share, therefore, was about \$3,120. In the 2009 public school budget, that level of expenditure rose by 14.1 percent to about \$3,555 per LEP student. This amount provided for in the state budget approximately matches expenditures at the local level, suggesting an overall state and local cost of about \$7,110 per student per year. At about six-tenths of the cost of regular instruction, this is level of per student LEP instruction expenditure is within the parameters in the above cited GAO study.

Other studies tend to validate this cost estimate. A study for the Thornton Commission (Maryland Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence) in September 2001 estimated the then costs of ESL in-

THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF SCHOOLING FOR THE CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL ALIENS IS MORE THAN \$1.2 BILLION DOLLARS.

\$1.2 billion

struction as, "...equal to the base cost figure (\$6,612)." As noted above, there has been a major increase in educational costs since that time. Inflation would put that amount at about \$7,890 in 2009. A

comparative study of state support of LEP programs by the state of Maine found that the average cost in Maryland in 2008 was \$6,694.²³

LEP COST FOR CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (\$ millions)						
Foreign-Born	Cost	Outlay	U.S.-Born	Cost	Outlay	Total
15,000	\$7,110	\$106.7	20,000	\$7,110	\$142.2	\$248.9

The Limited English Proficiency instruction cost for the children of illegal aliens in Maryland amounts to nearly \$250 million per year. In this calculation, we have ascribed about seven-eighths of all LEP enrollment to the children of illegal aliens. About one-third of the US-born children of illegal aliens and about two-thirds of the children of illegal aliens born abroad constitute this LEP population.

is more than one billion dollars. The educational expenditures are divided into regular K-12 schooling (87%) and LEP instruction (13%) and into education for the foreign-born children of illegal aliens (29%) and for their U.S.-born children (71%).

More than two-thirds of the 2008 LEP enrollment was in either Prince George's County (38.3% of the total) or in Montgomery County (29.6%). In that school year, state-compiled data showed that in the Washington, DC suburbs the LEP enrollment was 28,317, i.e., 70.2 percent of the state's total. The other concentration of LEP enrollment was in the Baltimore metropolitan area where there were 8,756 students, which represented 21.7 percent of the state total.²⁴

Some argue that the cost of educating the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens should not be included with the cost of educating the foreign-born children of illegal aliens. However, these dual-citizen children would not be receiving an education paid for by the state's taxpayers if it were not for the illegal presence of their parents. If the parents leave or are deported, it is reasonable to assume that the children will accompany them, and the federal government provides for U.S.-born children to accompany parents who are being deported.

As shown in the table below the total estimated cost of schooling for the children of illegal aliens in Maryland

The purpose of this study is to assess the fiscal cost burden associated with illegal immigration in order to better understand the value of deterring further illegal immigration and working to reduce the current illegal alien population. In that context, it is clearly important to take into consideration the fiscal costs associated with educating all of the children of the illegal aliens regardless of where born.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COSTS FOR CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL ALIENS (\$ millions)			
	Foreign-Born	U.S.-Born	Total
K-12	\$264.3	\$702.1	\$966.4
LEP	\$106.7	\$142.2	\$248.9
Total	\$371.0	\$844.3	\$1,215.2

Again it should be kept in mind that there are other educational expenditures not included in the annual

more than \$1.2 billion dollar fiscal cost estimate. The state and local governments are funding adult education English programs for, *inter alia*, illegal aliens. They also fund some post-secondary education en-

rollment and they cover some administrative costs of dealing with non-English speaking parents of students such as translation of notices into foreign languages and interpreters used in parent-teacher conferences.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL OUTLAYS

Estimates of the costs of uncompensated medical outlays are hampered by a lack of precise data. As the GAO noted in a May 2004 report, “Hospitals generally do not collect information on their patients’ immigration status, and as a result, an accurate assessment of undocumented aliens’ impact on hospitals’ uncompensated care costs — those not paid by patients or by insurance — remains elusive.”²⁵

The costs of medical care related to illegal immigration take several different forms. They include:

- The emergency medical treatment provided to illegal aliens that is not covered by Medicaid.
- The emergency medical treatment that is covered by Medicaid for the birth of children to illegal aliens.
- Emergency and non-emergency medical attention that is covered by Medicaid for the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens.
- Medicaid expenses for the treatment of U.S. citizens who have contracted diseases from or have been injured by illegal aliens. We do not provide any estimate of this latter cost.

Of these categories, only the first — emergency treatment not covered by Medicaid — is generally dis-

cussed when considering the medical costs to the taxpayer from illegal immigration. It is this expense that led to the adoption of a federal program to compensate states for these outlays. Records generally are not kept specifically on the emergency medical care provided to illegal aliens.²⁶ However, reasonable estimates of such costs may be made because medical facilities providing such services collect data to establish whether patients are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement and — by default — those ineligible for Medicaid reimbursement are generally illegal aliens. If the patient does not have a Social Security number (SSN), or has one that proves to be false, it is likely that person is an illegal alien.

A report on the rising costs of emergency health care in Charles County provided to uninsured women sponsored by Civitas, a program of the Center for Public Justice, stated that 70 percent of obstetric patients in that County are Hispanic “undocumented immigrants.”²⁷ The same report noted that, “[The] Language barrier creates communication issues between providers and patients; translation services are costly for hospitals.”

For the past four years, the federal government has partially compensated states for their emergency medical expenses. In 2008, Maryland received a payment of

\$1,335,428.²⁸ The formula for allocation of those funds uses the federal government’s estimate of the illegal alien population in 2000 and, therefore, it under-compensates states like Maryland that have illegal alien populations growing faster than the national average.

Based on the experience in other states, an annual average expense for emergency medical treatment to the illegal alien population is about \$100 per illegal alien. That suggests that those costs in Maryland are about \$25 million. Subtracting the federal compensation leaves an uncompensated balance of about \$23.7 million.

The emergency medical care paid for by Medicaid for the birth of children to illegal aliens represents the largest of the medical expenditures. It is paid under the interpretation that the medical service is not for the illegal alien, but rather being provided to the infant, who is born a U.S. citizen.

“Federal law generally excludes undocumented immigrants, as well as legal immigrants who have been in the United States less than 5 years, from Medicaid eligibility. These individuals can, however, receive Medicaid coverage for emergency medical services (Emergency Medicaid) if they belong to a Medicaid-eligible category, such as children, pregnant women, families with dependent children, elderly or disabled individuals, and if they meet state income and residency requirements.”²⁹

The annual average number of births in Maryland since 2000 has been about 74,500, and we estimate that about 19,260 of them (25.8%) have been to foreign-born women. More than one-third of those births are likely to have been to illegal aliens, i.e., about 6,900 Medicaid births per year in the state.³⁰ Data from other states indicate that the average cost of an un-

complicated Medicaid delivery is likely to be at least \$10,000.³¹ Medicaid expenditures in Maryland are split 50-50 between the state and the federal government (except during the 2009 fiscal year). Thus, the normal state’s share of the cost of Medicaid births to illegal alien mothers is about \$5,000 per normal delivery.

Using an average state-funded birth expense of \$5,000 per birth to illegal aliens paid by Maryland taxpayers and an estimated annual number of 6,900 births, the cost of Medicaid funded births is likely to be about \$34.5 million.

Medicaid also pays for treatment of the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens. Those costs are likely to be proportionate to the size of this population. Using the recent finding of the Pew Hispanic Center regarding the relative size of the population of U.S.-born children of illegal aliens, we estimate the U.S.-born children of illegal aliens in Maryland to be about 73,375 persons. This is a larger number than the U.S.-born students in public school because it also includes those below school age. As with childbirth expenditures, we assume that the income limits on Medicaid will exclude very few, if any, of the children of illegal aliens from Medicaid coverage.

The average expenditures per Maryland child under Medicaid in 2006 was \$2,578. As the federal payment was half of that, the average state cost borne by Mary-

MEDICAL EXPENDITURES	
Non-Medicaid Emergency Care	\$23.7 million
Illegal Alien Births	34.5 million
Medicaid for U.S.-born	109.0 million
Total	\$167.2 million

land residents was about \$1,290.³² Medicaid costs in the state have been rising at an annual average of 4.8 percent, so the current cost would be about \$1,485 per child.

The U.S.-born children of illegal aliens receive on average annual medical outlays paid for by Maryland's taxpayers of about \$109 million.

INCARCERATION OUTLAYS FOR ILLEGAL AND DEPORTABLE ALIENS

SIZE OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PRISONER POPULATION

The data upon which the costs of incarcerating illegal aliens can be estimated come from information collected in the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which is administered by the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice. In that program, states and local jurisdictions apply for compensation for the incarceration of illegal aliens and other deportable aliens.

CRIMINAL ALIENS (detention years)



In FY 1999, the state documented about 404 illegal alien detention years in its application for SCAAP reimbursement. In that year it received federal reim-

bursement for 38.6 percent of its costs.

Since then, the level of inmate years has steadily increased, rising to about 610 inmate years in 2006, the last year for which detention information is published. Over the same period, SCAAP funding received by the state and local jurisdictions has varied widely from a low of \$1,101,344 in 2000 to a high level of \$3,159,521 in 2008. Compensation in 2006 amounted to about \$5,000 per prisoner year.

In the most recent SCAAP awards, funds were reimbursed to the state and to nine of Maryland's 23 counties. Not included in the awards was any compensation for Baltimore city or Prince George's County. This suggests that the SCAAP data do not reflect the magnitude of criminal aliens incarcerated in the state. Authorities in the Department of Homeland Security believe that the prisoners that are recognized for compensation in the SCAAP program constitute a small share of all detained illegal and deportable aliens.³³

On the basis of the rising trend in prisoner years of incarceration and the fact that not all of Maryland's jurisdictions are included in that program, we conservatively estimate the current incarcerated deportable alien population to constitute at least 650 prisoner years in 2008.

The SCAAP reimbursements were almost entirely ei-

ther to Montgomery County (48.8%) or to the State (40.4%). Frederick County and Baltimore County received the next largest awards (2.8% and 2.7% respectively). Incarceration costs vary significantly in the state. Montgomery County has one of the highest rates of prisoner expenses. According to the County Department of Corrections director, Art Wallenstein, the average costs in 2008 amount to about \$170 per day (\$62,050 per annum). The Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center charges the federal government \$198 per day (\$72,270 per annum) for detaining federal prisoners. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, the average cost of incarceration in the state prisons system in 2001 was \$26,398.³⁵ By 2005 the estimated per prisoner cost had risen to \$30,244 according to a study by the JFA Institute using federally collected data.³⁶ We estimate that the average cost in the state prison system will

have increased to about \$36,725 in 2008 on the basis of the rate of increase in detention costs in Montgomery County since 2005.

COSTS OF ILLEGAL ALIEN INCARCERATION			
(\$ millions)			
Expenditures	Prisoner Years	Cost @	Outlay
Montgomery County	315	\$62,050	\$19.5
State	260	\$37,000	\$9.5
Other	75	\$40,000	\$3.0
SCAAP Reimbursement			-\$3
Total	650		\$28.9

It should be kept in mind that the above cost estimate would likely be significantly higher if the detention of illegal aliens in Baltimore city and Prince George's County, among others, were included in the SCAAP data.

LONG-TERM ALIEN PRISONERS

An example of an illegal alien prisoner currently in prison and subject to deportation when he has served his sentence is Bagada Dionas, a Liberian. He was sentenced in September 2009 to two life terms plus 170 years in prison for the shooting deaths of two persons. As a juvenile, Dionas was convicted of armed robberies, drug dealing and car theft. In 2005, he was first convicted as an adult for armed robbery and served a prison sentence. Maryland Prison authorities said they didn't at the time check immigration status because it would be a burden.³⁷

Another example is Jose Garcia-Perlera, a Salvadoran illegal immigrant. He was convicted in August 2009 of assault of four elderly women and the murder of one of them in Bethesda, Maryland and sentenced to life in prison without parole.³⁸

In May, 2009, Hector Mauricio Hernandez, a Salvadoran illegal alien, pled guilty to the fatal shooting of an honors student at Montgomery Blair HS in Montgomery County. Hernandez, reportedly a gang member, had been detained earlier by county police for possession of a knife, but was released without checking his immigration status.³⁹ He was sentenced in October to 50 years in prison. As a result of this killing, the Montgomery County police chief insisted that his department actively cooperates with federal immigration authorities. Nevertheless, in September 2009, the police chief issued an order against reporting to immigration authorities the detention of illegal aliens even for gang related activities unless the arrest involved a violent or handgun-related crime.⁴⁰

OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPENSES

The estimated nearly \$29 million per year in uncompensated incarceration costs of illegal and deportable alien prisoners does not include any estimate of other cost to Maryland taxpayers resulting from the crimes they commit. Such activities would include policing, especially policing for gangs that are likely to include illegal aliens, other administration of justice expenses related to crime such as prosecution, public defenders, interpretation services, etc. These clearly represent additional fiscal outlays that are attributable to illegal and deportable aliens but are outside the scope of this study.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR EDUCATION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AND INCARCERATION <i>Outlays (\$ millions)</i>	
Education	
Foreign-Born	\$264.3
U.S.-Born	702.1
English Instruction (ELL/LEP)	248.9
Uncompensated Medical Care	167.2
Incarceration	28.9
Total	1,411.4

In 2008 there were about 2.08 million households in Maryland. So the average share of the more than \$1.4 billion expenditures on illegal aliens borne by those households was about \$677 per native household per year. If that amount is apportioned among just native-born households, which bear the lion's share of these costs, the average annual burden is about \$790. This cost does not include the share of the costs that is paid by these same taxpayers to the U.S. Treasury, some of which also goes to paying for services to this same population of illegal aliens.

TAXES COLLECTED FROM ILLEGAL ALIENS

As noted earlier, we include a discussion of the estimated tax collections from illegal aliens even though that is misleading as an offset against the fiscal outlays. Similar — or more likely greater — taxes would be collected if the same jobs were filled by U.S. citizens or legal immigrant workers. In addition, replacing illegal alien workers with legal workers likely would decrease

outlays such as unemployment compensation and social assistance programs available to those legal workers currently displaced by illegal alien workers.

For reasons outlined below, tax collections from illegal aliens will be at a significantly lower rate than from legal residents and citizens.

- Data from the 2007 Census Bureau's American Community Survey indicate that about 43,000 of Maryland's non-U.S. citizen foreign-born are below the poverty level and another about 72,500 have income below 200 percent of the poverty level.⁴¹ That number would clearly be higher in the current depressed job market. Legal immigrants are less likely than illegal aliens to work in the underground, or "informal," economy, and it is reasonable to assume that the vast majority of illegal aliens fall within the 115,500 foreign-born residents in the poverty and near-poverty category. In addition, the children of the illegal aliens born in the United States will show up in the native-born population living in poverty.

Also in 2007, 51.3 percent of full-time, year-round, noncitizen workers in the state earned less than \$35,000 a year. Again, illegal immigrants would have lower average earnings than legal noncitizen workers, which in addition to legal immigrants would include guest workers such as high-tech workers on H-1B visas. A Pew Hispanic Center study put average family income for "unauthorized migrants" in 2003 at \$27,400.⁴² With average inflation that income would be about \$32,100 today. In 2008, a family of four earning less than \$41,646 was eligible to receive a Maryland tax credit equal to half the federal tax credit that would "...either reduce or eliminate the amount of the state and local income tax that you owe."⁴³

- Illegal alien workers for whom taxes are withheld by employers are likely to have a lower than average tax liability because they have larger than average families,⁴⁴ and because they are more easily able to overstate their number of dependents since SSNs for dependents are not required of children born and residing abroad. This opens a loophole that can be ex-

ploited to claim lower payroll tax withholding and greater dependent deductions on tax returns that are not readily verifiable.

- Illegal aliens often send part of their earnings abroad in the form of remittances. The Inter-American Development Bank estimates that in 2006, more than \$921 million dollars were sent to Latin America and the Caribbean from Maryland. Illegal aliens are more likely than legal immigrants to have nuclear family members living abroad to whom they send remittances. Besides being a drain on the state's economy by removing the earnings from circulation, these remittances reduce the disposable income of the sender, which means fewer purchases that generate sales taxes.
- Illegal aliens are more likely to make purchases in the informal economy from which sales taxes are not collected and paid to the government. An example would be home prepared food sold on job sites to laborers, thereby avoiding the tax on meals purchased in a restaurant.⁴⁵
- The lower earnings profile means that a larger share of the illegal immigrant's disposable income will be spent on food, which is exempt from tax.
- Illegal aliens often will share housing, which means that per capita indirect property tax payments on rental property will be lower than for most other residents.

Illegal aliens will, in theory, pay income, sales and property taxes. However, as noted above, it is likely that only a small share of the estimated half of illegal aliens who are working with false identity documents posing as legal workers are likely to be earning enough

to incur a tax liability. That is true despite the state's income tax liability beginning with \$1,000 of taxable income because of the EITC provision. It also should be noted that if the illegal alien amnesty currently being promoted by the Obama Administration is enacted the number of EITC tax filings would presumably increase significantly thereby constituting an increased drain on the state's tax revenue.

Property taxes and sales taxes, however, are not so easily avoided. Analysis of Maryland's tax system by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) provided estimates of tax collections. The ITEP estimates indicate that average property tax collections in 2002 for a poor family in Maryland (family income of \$20,000) was in 2002 about \$457, sales taxes were about \$406, and income tax liability was about \$932.⁴⁶ This does not offset for the EITC which could leave income tax liability at zero or result in a payment to the tax return filer. The study noted that groceries — which would constitute a large share of a poor family's spending — are exempt from the sales tax.

Normal inflation would suggest that an income of \$20,000 in 2002 would be about \$23,860 today, although it should be kept in mind that illegal aliens working off the books did not receive the benefit of the increase in the minimum wage and are unlikely to receive cost of living adjustments to keep up with inflation. The ITEP has assumed in its studies that about half of the illegal alien population in the workforce is working in the underground economy from which income taxes, and other withholdings are not deducted. For those workers fraudulently claiming to be legal workers, their tax withholdings probably increased at least commensurate with the cost of living. If the earn-

ings did increase to keep pace with inflation, the tax collection would have increased to \$484 (sales), \$545 (property) and \$1,112 (income).

In our calculation below, we have used lower estimates of property tax (72%) and sales tax (62%) collections than those suggested by the ITEP model because of the above described lower disposable income resulting from remittances, lower sales tax collection due to a larger share of disposable income spent on tax exempt food, and the prevalence of shared housing.⁴⁷

Additionally, we estimate — because of the effect of the EITC and the previously noted loophole in the tax system that allows overstatement of dependents — that the effective rate of state income tax collections from those workers in the “above ground economy” using false documents is no more than half of the effective rate.

The calculation below does not include an offset for social assistance programs, such as food stamps or housing assistance, received by poor illegal alien families either on their own behalf or on behalf of their U.S.-born family members.

TAX RECEIPTS FROM ILLEGAL ALIENS

	Households	Amount	Total (\$ millions)
Sales Tax	220,000	\$350	\$77.0
Property Tax	220,000	\$300	\$66.0
Income Tax	110,000	\$550	\$60.5
Total		\$1,200	\$203.5

OUTLAYS FOR AND RECEIPTS FROM ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

2008 Outlays (\$ millions)

Outlays	\$1,411.4
Receipts	-\$203.5
Net Fiscal Effect	\$1,207.9

Even if taxes collected from illegal aliens were considered a valid offset to the fiscal costs of the outlays — which they are not — the net costs would still be more than \$1.2 billion.

DISCOURAGING/ENCOURAGING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The attraction that draws illegal immigration is the perception that jobs will be available that will provide a better life for the illegal alien and family members. Congress recognized this fact in 1986 when it made it illegal to hire a foreigner not authorized to work. That law has been widely ignored because employers are not held accountable unless it can be proven they knowingly hired illegal workers. In 1996, Congress took a tiny step towards creating a system that could make employers accountable by mandating creation of a work document verification system to be used by employers. E-Verify is the current version of that system, but it is still operating as a voluntary system nationally.

States, however, have discovered that they can mandate the use of the E-Verify system for their employers. Arizona was the pioneer in doing so, and two other states have followed suit. Several other states, and most

recently the federal government, have adopted regulations requiring that all employers with public contracts use E-Verify.

This tool to discourage illegal immigration is not in use in Maryland. To the contrary, a number of existing policies are in use that encourage illegal alien settlement in the state, despite the costs to Maryland taxpayers and the unfair competition to Maryland workers that arises from employers being able to cut costs by giving jobs to illegal workers.

An example of a policy that accommodates illegal aliens is the practice of issuing state driver's licenses without regard to legal status. Until this year (2009), Maryland was one of the few remaining states that continued that practice after it was revealed that the 9/11 terrorists had used U.S. driver's licenses to board

"THE PROBLEM IS THAT THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 300,000 ILLEGAL ALIENS ALREADY DRIVING IN MARYLAND WITH LICENSES THEY HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITHOUT PROOF OF THEIR LEGAL PRESENCE. PROPONENTS OF THE ILLEGAL ALIEN POPULATION ARGUE WE SHOULD ALLOW THESE 300,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY DRIVING ON MARYLAND LICENSES TO KEEP THEIR LICENSES AND NOT EVER HAVE TO PROVE THEIR LEGAL PRESENCE WITHIN THE COUNTRY."

—DELEGATE MIKE SMIGIEL
LEGISLATIVE NEWS, MARCH 31, 2009⁴⁸

the aircraft they turned into weapons of mass destruction. A legislative initiative (HB-387) was adopted to bring the state into compliance with the federal REAL-ID standards enacted pursuant to the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, but the provision ended up being amended to allow illegal aliens who already have driver's licenses to be able to use them through July 2015.

Despite the efforts of legislators like Delegate Smigiel, Maryland not only has measures that accommodate the presence of illegal aliens, it has yet to join the national trend towards adopting measures to effectively discourage the settlement of illegal aliens in the state despite large majorities of the Maryland public supporting such reforms.⁴⁹ For example, a Washington Post poll in 2007 found that 85 percent of Marylanders "...want the state and local governments to do more to deal with illegal immigration (53% "a lot more" and 32% "some more").⁵⁰

At the local level, the presence of "sanctuary cities" like Baltimore (since 2003) and Tacoma Park (since 1985) that bar their law enforcement personnel from inquiring about immigration status and from cooperation with federal immigration authorities act as a magnet to attract the settlement of illegal aliens.⁵¹

Similarly, local government policies that allow for or in some cases assist the creation of hiring sites for day laborers, which national studies have documented are

used almost exclusively by illegal alien workers, flout the federal law against hiring illegal alien workers. In that regard, the hiring sites operated by CASA de Maryland are a prime example of catering to the illegal alien population with the assistance of local government. That organization is in the process of creating a new multi-million dollars headquarters in the suburbs of the nation's Capitol — in Langley Park — funded with at least \$2 million in Marylanders taxes.

CASA's five day-laborer centers in Baltimore, Silver Spring, Wheaton, Langley Park, and Shady Grove serve the illegal alien population by not inquiring about immigration status. However, the fact that tax dollars are supporting the operation of the centers gives the false impression that the persons hired at these centers are legal workers. A demonstration of the fact that CASA recognizes that many of the persons who use their services are illegal aliens may be seen in the fact that the centers offer a pamphlet prepared by CASA that coaches immigrants not to say anything, answer the door or provide identification to immigration and law enforcement officials. CASA advises its clients to carry and use a card saying the person will not answer questions without a lawyer.

The public advocacy activities of CASA de Maryland on behalf of their clients have in the past been a thorn in the side of federal immigration law enforcement personnel. Former Immigration and Naturalization

A CONTINUING SUPPLY OF JOBS ON THE ILLEGAL MARKET WILL KEEP THE UNDOCUMENTED COMING. AND THE COMPETITION CERTAINLY HURTS AMERICAN WORKERS AND THOSE LEGALLY IN THIS COUNTRY NOT ONLY BY CLOSING OFF ENTRY LEVEL JOBS BUT BY HOLDING DOWN WAGE INCREASES THAT LEGAL WORKERS MIGHT BARGAIN FOR.

—WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL
SEPTEMBER 2, 1996

“THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SERVE EVERYBODY — [IMMIGRANTS] ARE THE HOUSE CLEANERS, THE KIDS GOING TO SCHOOL. THEY ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY, AND PART OF GOVERNMENT’S ROLE IS TO HELP THE POOR AND VULNERABLE.”

—JENNIFER FREEDMAN, CASA DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Service regional director Ben Ferro went on public record castigating then CASA directors Gustavo Torres and Ana Sol Gutierrez. He wrote, “During our meetings there were important areas of mutual concern where I feel we were working together and making progress; however, once away from our discussions you have continued to misrepresent the facts and make unsubstantiated allegations of abuse and discrimina-

tion which serve only to drive a wedge between the INS and the communities we both serve.” He expressed “extreme disappointment” over what he characterized as “...your group’s continued attempts to mislead the media...” and the public. Torres remains CASA director, and Gutierrez now serves in the Maryland House of Delegates.⁵⁴

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Maryland’s taxpayers increasingly have been required to assume a growing burden for local governmental outlays resulting from the rapidly rising number of illegal aliens living in the state. Unless federal, state or local measures — or a combination of such measures — are taken to stem the flow of illegal immigration, these costs may be expected to continue to rise. And the costs of illegal immigration are not likely to subside until the size of the illegal alien population begins to subside.

If today’s illegal residents were to gain legal status, as the Obama Administration has espoused as a legislative goal, such an amnesty would not significantly alleviate the cost burden on the Maryland taxpayer. Supporters of an amnesty argue that by becoming legal workers, current illegal workers would be able to qualify for higher paying jobs. This assertion is not supported by research based on the outcome of the 1986 amnesty. Because earnings are generally related to educational preparation or work skills, workers with low

educational attainment have been found to not see appreciable increase in earning potential despite their change in status. Rather, the adoption of any amnesty is more likely to enhance the temptation for others to follow the same path of illegal entry taken by the amnesty beneficiaries.

A poll conducted in Mexico in October 2009 by Zogby International found that 56 percent of people in that country thought amnesty would make it more likely that people would migrate illegally to the U.S., and that some 39 million Mexicans would make the move if it were possible.⁵⁵ Of course, migration on that scale would undermine any possibility for increased earnings for legalized low-skilled workers as well as for earlier legal immigrant workers and U.S. workers who are competing for the same jobs. Furthermore, an amnesty would increase access to EITC payments and to public services by newly legalized residents and, therefore, increase the costs to the state’s taxpayers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The fiscal costs to Marylanders associated with illegal immigration are not inevitable. While the federal government has the primary responsibility for enforcing immigration laws, state and local governments have a key role to play that can either discourage or encourage illegal immigrants settling in their area. State and local policies can either facilitate or hinder federal immigration law enforcement efforts.

But until employers are held accountable for hiring illegal alien workers and state and local law enforcement agencies work cooperatively with federal immigration officials to identify and remove illegal aliens, the illegal alien population in the state is likely to continue to grow.

The state and local governments will be acting in the best future interests of Marylanders if they reverse course and cease accommodating illegal immigration and, instead adopt measures to discourage it.

One of the obvious first steps is to begin to systematically collect data that will guide reform efforts. The current ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policies have been promoted with the intent of preventing the collection of objectively accurate data.

THE STATE SHOULD:

- Stop issuing the nation’s fundamental identity document — the driver’s license — to illegal aliens and invalidate the driver’s licenses already issued to persons without valid SSNs and Maryland residence.
- Bring the driver’s license into full compliance with the federal REAL-ID standards.

- Require employers to enroll in the E-Verify system.
- End ‘don’t ask don’t tell’ policies that offer educational opportunities beyond the required K-12 educational level.
- End assistance to organizations that assist illegal aliens with other than federally mandated services.
- Seek data on educational and medical services provided to illegal aliens by requiring reports on the use of state funds for services provided to persons without valid SSNs.

COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD:

- Enroll in the 287(g) program to train local law enforcers in immigration law enforcement in order to identify detained illegal aliens and put them into deportation proceedings.
- End support of organizations that provide services to illegal aliens other than services that are federally mandated.
- Use licensing powers to curtail the support network that caters to the illegal alien population.
- Collect data on educational and medical services provided to illegal aliens by requiring reports on the use of county or local funds for services provided to persons without valid SSNs. In a challenge to the State Board of Education’s ruling rejecting a data collection system, a new proposal for doing so is currently being advocated by Frederick County commissioners and the County sheriff.

LOCAL REFORM ACTIVISTS SHOULD ALSO FOCUS ON NATIONAL POLICIES

Marylanders have a right to expect their national as well as their local elected representatives to work to alleviate the fiscal burden placed on them as a result of illegal immigration. To simply convert illegal alien residents to legal resident status with an amnesty violates a fundamental principle of immigration reform, because it would encourage rather than deter future illegal immigration. A policy that conveys the message that the country or any state or local government will tolerate and reward foreigners who ignore our immigration law invites the rest of the world to see illegal immigration as an accepted route to seeking a better life in our country and perpetuates the problem.

As the late Barbara Jordan, a former member of Congress from Texas and chair of the U.S. Commission on

Immigration Reform (USCIR) summed up her view on immigration:

“The credibility of immigration policy can be measured by a simple yardstick: people who should get in, do get in; people who should not get in are kept out; and people who are judged deportable are required to leave.”

—U.S. Immigration Policy: Restoring Credibility
USCIR 1994

Maryland’s elected representatives owe it to the state’s citizens and legal residents to uphold the principle that the United States is founded on respect for the rule of law, and to act in ways that demonstrate that those who have disrespected our immigration law will not be accommodated.

ENDNOTES

- 1 FAIR's estimate of the illegal alien population is similar to the estimate by the Pew Hispanic Center. The most recent federal government estimate of the state's illegal alien population was that in 2000 the population was 56,000 persons. More recent estimates by DHS have been provided only for the 10 largest state illegal alien population, and Maryland has not been among those states.
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- 3 Lichtman, Allen, "Déjà vu on Maryland's Budget" *Gazette* (Md.), September 25, 2009.
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- 5 "Sheriff Jenkins defends immigration enforcement at congressional hearing," *Frederick News-Post*, March 5, 2009.
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- 7 2002 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, DHS Office of Immigration Statistics, Oct. 2003.
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- 18 "Fiscal Impacts of Undocumented Aliens: Selected Estimates for Seven States," The Urban Institute, September 1994.
- 19 NCES website, op. cit., Table 1.
- 20 Maryland Fact Sheet, 2007 American Community Survey and Census Data on the Foreign Born by State, Migration Policy Institute. 38.5 percent of foreign-born persons over age 5 are Limited English Proficient (LEP). Among native-born persons over age 5, the share of LEP persons is 1.1 percent. Thus, about 265,000 foreign-born persons aged 5 or older were LEP compared to about 50,100 native-born persons. Most of the latter may be presumed to be young US-born children of immigrants, most often children of illegal aliens because of the generally low educational attainment and socio-economic situation of the parents. (Website consulted October 15, 2009
<http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/acscensus.cfm?CFID=2446740&CFTOKEN=52980399#>)

- 21 The number of refugees intending to reside in Maryland during the 1997-2006 decade was 14,669, and most of those admissions were adults. In the Department of Homeland Security's 2006 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 20.9 percent of refugee admissions in that year were school aged.
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ABOUT FAIR

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) is a national, nonprofit, public-interest, membership organization of concerned citizens who share a common belief that our nation's immigration policies must be reformed to serve the national interest.

FAIR seeks to improve border security, to stop illegal immigration, and to promote immigration levels consistent with the national interest – more traditional rates of about 300,000 a year.

With more than 250,000 members and supporters nationwide, FAIR is a non-partisan group whose membership runs the gamut from liberal to conservative. Our grassroots networks help concerned citizens use their voices to speak up for effective, sensible immigration policies that work for America's best interests.

FAIR's publications and research are used by academics and government officials in preparing new legislation. National and international media regularly turn to us to understand the latest immigration developments and to shed light on this complex subject. FAIR has been called to testify on immigration bills before Congress more than any organization in America.

Your support is crucial to our ability to improve border security, stop illegal immigration, and promote immigration levels consistent with the national interest. You may join or donate online at www.fairus.org, toll-free by phone at (877) 627-3247, or complete the adjacent form and mail to:

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