



FAIR Federation for American Immigration Reform

Immigration REPORT

November 2007

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Julie Kirchner Named New Executive Director of FAIR

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REAL ID Too Costly for Americans, But in New York, Not Too Costly for Illegal Aliens

When Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2004, requiring states to improve the security features in their driver's licenses and verify the identification of applicants, the law was met

with a chorus of complaints from state governments. “Too costly,” “too difficult,” “not our job,” “an unfunded mandate,” were the typical responses from state officials who balked at verifying the identities of legal U.S. residents.

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Chertoff Defends the Border Fence from "Environmentalists"

Since the defeat of President Bush’s illegal alien amnesty and guest worker bill in June, the administration has increased its immigration enforcement efforts. Construction on the border security fence, which the president reluctantly agreed to in 2006, is slowly but surely underway. The barrier, which has sharply curtailed illegal border crossings in areas where it is already in place, has drawn complaints from the government of Mexico and illegal alien advocacy groups in this country. The latest assault on the border fence has come from environmentalists who charge that the fence will impede the movement of wildlife in the area and threaten tourism in the region.

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Talk Radio Spotlight

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Reformer Corner

Terrance Lang

All Americans have a vital stake in our nation's immigration policies, but perhaps none greater than black Americans. All across the country, black citizens are often the first to feel the harmful effects of our nation's ill-conceived and unenforced immigration policies. The hard-fought and hard-won gains made by our community over the past 50 years all stand to be undermined by our current immigration situation. And, sad to say, the traditional black leadership in this country has, at best, stood by silently as black interests were being sacrificed, and, at worst, has been an active participant in promoting policies that serve neither the nation nor our communities.

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Senate Amnesty Advocates Hit the Snooze Button on the DREAM Act

Although FAIR led a national effort to educate the American public about the Bush-Kennedy amnesty bill earlier this year, resulting in the most massive outpouring of opposition to a bill most people in Washington can remember, we knew that amnesty advocates would regroup and try again. Our biggest concern was that the illegal alien amnesty proponents would break it up into smaller pieces and try to slip it past the American public piece by piece. Over the summer congressional recess FAIR began strategizing for precisely such an eventuality.

When Congress returned to work after Labor Day our concerns proved to be exactly on the mark and FAIR was ready to confront this latest effort to pass amnesty pieces by stealth. In September, Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) announced his intention to offer the DREAM Act amnesty as an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill.

The DREAM Act, under the guise of being sympathetic to illegal aliens who were brought here by their parents as children and who want to go on to college or serve in the military, is in fact a large amnesty proposal that would have legalized millions of people and cost taxpayers millions in college tuition subsidies. Upon reading the fine print, the version of the DREAM Act Durbin was proposing was not limited to kids and was open to just about anyone taking a correspondence course or attending a trade school. It would also have potentially opened the door for people with criminal records and terrorist ties to gain green cards, and even prevented the Department of Homeland Security from reviewing its own records to screen out such people.

The effort was also a blatant attempt to make an end run around the legislative process by tacking this major piece of immigration legislation onto an unrelated defense bill that most members of Congress felt compelled to approve. The DREAM Act was introduced as free standing legislation in each of the last three Congresses and was unable to pass on its own merits. It had also been rolled into the Bush-Kennedy bill last spring.

Once word was received that Durbin, together with Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), was planning this stealth amnesty assault, FAIR sprang into action. Using the same techniques to inform and educate the American public that successfully derailed the earlier massive amnesty bill, FAIR was able to prevent a handful of senators from serving up the first course in what promised to be a steady menu of small amnesty bills.

FAIR began to let talk radio, Internet bloggers, and cable news know what was really in the DREAM Act and that the amnesty forces were trying to use the Defense Authorization bill as a the vehicle to enact the first stage of their amnesty plan. Once again, Americans all across the country, in large numbers, responded by letting their representatives know how much they oppose any form of amnesty and how much they disapprove of the tactics the amnesty

advocates were employing. Steadily throughout the month of September, undecided senators began to indicate their opposition to the DREAM Act.

As the debate on the Defense Authorization bill approached in late September it became evident to the pro-amnesty forces in the Senate that they simply did not have the votes to get the DREAM Act amendment through. Rather than face another humiliating defeat as they did last June, Durbin and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) announced on September 27 that they were pulling the amendment from consideration. Once again, the American public was the winner in yet another legislative battle over amnesty.

While all of us have reason to celebrate another defeat for the illegal alien amnesty effort, we know that the fight is not over. In announcing his decision to withdraw the amendment, Reid stated that he and other Senate leaders would be looking for other legislative vehicles they could use to pass the DREAM Act. There will also certainly be other attempts to implement other provisions of the Bush-Kennedy amnesty, most likely the AgJOBS bill which offers amnesty to millions of illegal aliens who claim to have worked in agriculture.

The pro-illegal alien amnesty lobby is relentless and will continue to push their agenda at every available opportunity. The American public must be equally resolute if we want to continue to block these amnesty efforts. FAIR will continue to monitor what the amnesty forces are up to and get the word out, and we will also need people all across the country to continue to respond the way they did when, together, we stopped the Bush-Kennedy amnesty bill and the DREAM Act.

Julie Kirchner Named New Executive Director of FAIR

At their September meeting, the FAIR board of directors chose Julie Kirchner to become the organization's third executive director in its nearly 29-year history. Beginning this fall, Julie will assume the day-to-day responsibilities of running the nation's largest and most prominent immigration reform organization. She will be working closely with Dan Stein, who will continue his role of president, in growing the organization and ensuring that FAIR remains the preeminent voice speaking out on behalf of the broad and long-term American interest in immigration policy.

Julie has been FAIR's director of government relations for the past two years. In that position she spearheaded FAIR's efforts to advance the cause of true immigration reform in the national interest, and oppose numerous efforts to enact massive amnesty programs for millions of illegal aliens. During her tenure as director of government relations Julie earned the respect of the members of Congress and their staffs for her diligence and grasp of important immigration legislation. She also gained the respect and admiration of her colleagues at FAIR.

Under Julie's leadership, FAIR is poised to build on its successes of the past and take full advantage of new opportunities and technologies to continue to educate the American public about the need for true immigration reform.

Before coming to FAIR, Julie worked as counsel at the Minnesota House of Representatives, where she staffed the Judiciary and Civil Law committees. In addition to this legislative experience, Ms. Kirchner has worked both as a private litigator and criminal prosecutor. She earned her B.A. at Yale University and received her J.D. with high distinction at the University of Iowa College of Law.

Chertoff Defends the Border Fence from "Environmentalists"

Since the defeat of President Bush's illegal alien amnesty and guest worker bill in June, the administration has increased its immigration enforcement efforts. Construction on the border security fence, which the president reluctantly agreed to in 2006, is slowly but surely underway. The barrier, which has sharply curtailed illegal border crossings in areas where it is already in place, has drawn complaints from the government of Mexico and illegal alien advocacy groups in this country. The latest assault on the border fence has come from environmentalists who charge that the fence will impede the movement of wildlife in the area and threaten tourism in the region.

In response to this latest attack on efforts to secure our borders, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff pointed out the obvious. "Illegal immigrants really degrade the environment. I've seen pictures of human waste, garbage, discarded bottles and other human artifacts in pristine areas," he noted. Chertoff might also have mentioned that the violent Mexican crime syndicates that move drugs and illegal aliens across the border probably do more to discourage nature lovers than the sight of a fence.

Over the years, it has been immigration reform advocacy groups, like FAIR, that have proven time and again that they are the true environmentalists. FAIR was founded by people who understood that immigration was the driving force behind unchecked population growth in the U.S., and that population growth is the leading cause of environmental degradation. While organizations like the Sierra Club consistently refuse to take a stance on this important issue, FAIR has continually advanced the idea that immigration policy and a healthy environment are inexorably linked.

FAIR Thanks Senator Jeff Sessions for His Leadership in Defeating the Bush-Kennedy Amnesty

During the recent legislative battle over the Bush-Kennedy illegal alien amnesty bill, no one played a more important and more public role in defeating it than Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.). Day in and day out, Sen. Sessions stood on the floor of the United States Senate and on national television and publicly exposed each of the bill's flaws and false promises.

Together with a bipartisan group of legislators, Sen. Sessions stood up to the leaders of both parties and, in his words, "the masters of the universe" who wrote the bill behind closed doors. Like a grand master chess player, Sessions devised strategy after strategy to block, thwart, delay, and ultimately defeat the bill in the Senate.

At our annual national board of advisors meeting, held in Washington on September 29, FAIR publicly thanked Sen. Sessions for his principled leadership by presenting to him the coveted Franklin Society award. These awards have been made by FAIR to honor rare individuals who have made a real difference in representing the interests of the nation and the American people in immigration policy.

Sen. Sessions was the keynote speaker at FAIR's board of advisors dinner, where he publicly thanked the organization for the important role that we played in educating the American public about the plan to grant amnesty to millions of illegal aliens and vastly expand future immigration to the U.S.

Sen. Sessions described the unprecedented tactics that the authors of the "grand bargain" and the Senate leadership employed in their effort to force an unwelcome amnesty down the throats of the American public. Moreover, he confirmed that while cheap labor interests and ethnic interest groups were intimately involved in crafting the legislation, the American public was unrepresented in the negotiations.

Sessions also noted that in their hurry to get the guest worker/amnesty bill passed before the American public learned what was in it, members of the Senate were being asked to vote on it before they even had the chance to read it. Sessions acknowledged the critical role that FAIR played in publicizing the shocking sell-out of American interests, leading to massive public opposition to the bill.

Mayor Barletta Vows to Take Fight to Supreme Court

The best known leader in the battle to enforce U.S. immigration laws at the local level, Mayor Lou Barletta of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, moderated a panel of local government officials who appeared at FAIR's September board of advisors meeting. In introducing the panel, Mayor Barletta vowed that his city is prepared to take its fight to enforce local ordinances designed to

discourage illegal immigration all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In July, a federal judge blocked the city from enforcing laws that would crack down on local employers and landlords.

Other local leaders who appeared on the panel expressed their determination to continue local efforts to enforce immigration policies. These included Sheriff Jim Pendergraph of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; Oklahoma State Representative Randy Terrill; and Pennsylvania State Representative Daryl Metcalf, each of whom is a leader in locally-based immigration enforcement efforts.

FAIR and our legal affiliate, the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI), have worked closely with each of these leaders to help promote their efforts. Rep. Terrill, in his address to the FAIR board of advisors, singled out IRLI's contribution to crafting statewide legislation that has been approved by the Oklahoma legislature and signed into law by Gov. Brad Henry. Terrill cited the work done by IRLI as a blueprint for other states looking for solutions to growing problems of illegal immigration.

FAIR in the News

Amnesty in Bite-Sized Pieces

September 18, 2007

As the debate about the DREAM Act heated up in Congress, the highly respected Capitol Hill newspaper, The Hill, published the following op-ed from FAIR as the lead item on their online "Congress Blog" Web site.

By now it is clear to politicians from both parties that the American public will not swallow what the proponents of amnesty for illegal aliens have called the "whole enchilada." But the failure of the Bush-Kennedy amnesty bill in the Senate earlier this year does not signal the end of the effort by amnesty backers to gain legal status for millions of illegal aliens in this country.

What the American public gagged on whole, they now hope to feed to them in bite-sized pieces. A special amnesty for one group of illegal aliens here, and another one there, and before you know it, just about everyone who is living in the U.S. illegally is prancing down the yellow brick road to citizenship.

The first two portions that the amnesty crowd in Congress is getting ready to serve up are the DREAM Act and the AgJOBS bills, designed to grant amnesty to students, minors and just about anyone who ever was a student or a minor. The AgJOBS bill would bestow legal status on anyone who has ever worked in agriculture or, based on the astounding rate of fraud in a similar amnesty program in 1986, anyone who knows that cows go moo and pigs go oink.

First up is likely to be the DREAM Act, which the Senate Democratic Whip Richard Durbin is preparing to offer as an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill. What amnesty for illegal aliens has to do with equipping our armed forces is not quite clear, but what is plainly evident is that the backers of this amnesty are hoping slip one by while the public isn't paying attention.

The DREAM Act, on its face, appears to be the least objectionable of the amnesty hors d'oeuvres Congress will be offering up. After all, who can object to offering amnesty and college tuition breaks to kids, students and people who are in some way bettering themselves? First of all, the version of the DREAM Act Durbin is attempting to tack onto the Defense bill is so broadly written that anyone enrolled in a correspondence class might qualify.

But even if the DREAM Act were truly limited to the kids who were brought to this country by their parents, the legislation is still hard to justify. While those kids may have done nothing wrong, failing to reward them with citizenship and a taxpayer subsidized college education is not the same as a punishment. Whatever disadvantage they find themselves in was a consequence of their parents' decision to break the law. Whenever parents break laws

immigration or others there are inevitably consequences for other family members, but in every other situation we properly hold the parents responsible for correcting the situation.

If you ask the typical illegal alien, "Why did you come to the U.S. illegally?" the answer invariably is, "I wanted to do better for my family." Perfectly understandable. The DREAM Act, therefore, means that the consequence of breaking the law is exactly what they set out to achieve: a green card and tuition subsidies for their kids.

The bigger problem with the DREAM Act is that the reward for the children of illegal aliens comes at the expense of other people's kids. For most middle class families, paying for college is one of the biggest concerns. A slot at a state university, where tuition is heavily subsidized, is for many families the best, if not the only, viable option. These limited seats at public universities and colleges are becoming ever more highly prized and admission is often as competitive as it is to Ivy League schools. Thus, the admission of a newly legalized DREAM Act beneficiary to a state university is guaranteed to come at the expense of another kid in that state who worked just as hard, has just as admirable goals and dreams, and whose family didn't break the law.

The lesson of this past year is that the American public wants illegal immigration brought under control. Enforcement of laws against illegal immigration and measures that result in illegal aliens becoming discouraged and leaving on their own must be a prerequisite to all other considerations. We have a long, long way to go before the American people can feel certain that the situation is under control. Until then, amnesty, served hot or cold, whole or in pieces, as the main course or as a side dish to another bill, is not likely to go down well.

Talk Radio Spotlight

Roger Hedgecock: Father of Hold Their Feet to the Fire

Talk radio played a critical role in informing the American public about the details of the Bush-Kennedy illegal alien amnesty bill earlier this year, leading to the bill's defeat because of overwhelming public opposition.

FAIR has had a longstanding relationship with talk radio, appearing on hundreds of programs every year to discuss immigration policy. In the past several years we have established an exceptionally successful working relationship with San Diego talk show host Roger Hedgecock by collaborating with him on several Hold Their Feet to the Fire events, which have brought other talk radio hosts and hundreds of listeners to the Nation's Capital to focus on immigration policy. Hedgecock, whose program airs on KOGO-AM, explains why the immigration issue is important to him and to his listeners:

Illegal immigration makes a mockery of the American immigration tradition. Legal immigrants have a sponsor and a job and a commitment to the country. Illegals sneak in using fake papers, assuming false identities, and leading false lives doing jobs Americans would do for a fair wage and too often despising the country that forces them to find opportunity in an off-the-books world.

The 1986 Immigration Amnesty Law promised amnesty to the (estimated) 2.5 million illegals then in the country; a crackdown on employers of the illegals; and border security. The illegals got the amnesty, the other two promises were ignored by both Democrat and Republican presidents since 1986. Today, more than 20 million illegals demand amnesty. Their demands are backed by an unholy alliance of Republicans seeking cheap labor for business interests, and Democrats seeking new voters to return them to power. We the people want our country back.

As if grappling with the economic, political and cultural problems blowing up in every American community along with the size of its illegal barrio isn't challenging enough, after 9/11, the war on America by Islamic fascism has made knowing who's coming to America and why now a matter of national survival. The Bush open-border policy has made a mockery of the Bush war effort. While the U.S. plays offense in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Bush defense is an open border.

Don't Forget Your 2007 Tax Savings!

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Gifts of Stock: FAIR has many friends who support us through a gift of stock. You can deduct the fair market value of the asset and pay no capital gains tax on the value.

Corporate Matching Program: Many companies offer matching gift programs to their employees. Check with your employer to determine your company's matching gift policies and procedures.

Gifts of Membership: It is the perfect gift for an associate, family member or friend. A gift membership includes the FAIR Immigration Report as well as email alerts, legislative updates and information about FAIR events.

American Express GivingExpress Program: If you contribute through this program you can redeem Membership Rewards points, set up recurring contributions and take a tax deduction for the amount contributed.

Planned Giving: Support FAIR with a planned gift and become a member of our Seventh Generation Society. A planned gift is a long term commitment and a way for you to protect your assets and provide for your family while leaving a legacy to FAIR.

Tribute/Memorial Gifts: There is no better way to honor someone than to provide a gift in their name. You can support FAIR with one large gift or ask friends and family to support FAIR in lieu of flowers.

FAIR relies on your support to fund the activities we undertake to fulfill our mission. Unlike our adversaries, we do not receive any form of government or corporate funding. In fact, because of that funding, for every dollar FAIR has to spend to fight our many battles, the opposition has many times more. There is no other organization as well organized and as effective as FAIR and none with as much credibility.

In addition, FAIR is one of only 155 charitable organizations — and the **ONLY** immigration focused organization — to be accredited by the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. This program assures donors that the organizations they are supporting operate responsibly and assists charities in establishing their commitment to ethical practices.

Our many accomplishments would not be possible without your support. We can assure you your support is used in the most effective way.

Reformer Corner

Terrance Lang

All Americans have a vital stake in our nation's immigration policies, but perhaps none greater than black Americans. All across the country, black citizens are often the first to feel the harmful effects of our nation's ill-conceived and unenforced immigration policies. The hard-fought and hard-won gains made by our community over the past 50 years all stand to be undermined by our current immigration situation. And, sad to say, the traditional black leadership in this country has, at best, stood by silently as black interests were being sacrificed, and, at worst, has been an active participant in promoting policies that serve neither the nation nor our communities.

My personal role in the fight against illegal immigration began in 1986. I got very involved after the amnesty bill was signed by President Ronald Reagan. My concerns increased as I witnessed my neighborhood inundated with people who entered our country illegally, did not speak English and openly shunned the cultural values of our nation. Where I live, fellow Americans have suffered from the impact of mass illegal immigration. We have seen our jobs being taken by low-wage foreign workers; our children's schools have been overwhelmed by an influx of special-needs students who do not speak English; hospitals in our communities are overwhelmed with uninsured foreign residents to the point where they can no longer provide needed services or shut down entirely.

As a member of Choose Black America, I have been a part of numerous rallies in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington D.C. I have spoken before the media at the National Press Club as well as conducted interviews with many newspapers and radio shows. Additionally, I have lobbied members of Congress (with special emphasis on the Congressional Black Caucus) in the effort to defeat the latest attempt to grant amnesty.

My hope is that Choose Black America, the foremost black organization opposed to illegal immigration, through its efforts can highlight the true intent of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and the 14th Amendment; and remove any doubt regarding false claims made by aliens living in our country illegally.