



FAIR FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

Immigration

REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2014

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FAIR Helps National Sheriffs' Coalition Tour Border Crisis

Sheriffs are a particularly important part of the law enforcement response to the illegal immigration crisis. Unlike chiefs of police who are political appointees, sheriffs are answerable directly to the voters and have an independent forum to oppose large resettlements of illegal aliens, and to advocate for more effective immigration enforcement.

Over the years, FAIR has developed a close working relationship with a coalition of sheriffs from across the country who are concerned about the lack of meaningful federal immigration en-

forcement. These elected law enforcement officials can rely on FAIR's expertise to help them better understand the issue and guard their own communities against the security threats posed by uncontrolled immigration.

With the surge of illegal aliens coming across the Texas border in recent months, many sheriffs felt the need to get a firsthand look at the situation and turned to FAIR for assistance.

As part of our educational mission to provide elected officials with the information and tools they need to serve their communities, FAIR helped orga-

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Members of the National Sheriffs' Association visit McAllen, Texas, for a tour of the border.

SHERIFFS TOUR THE BORDER *continued*

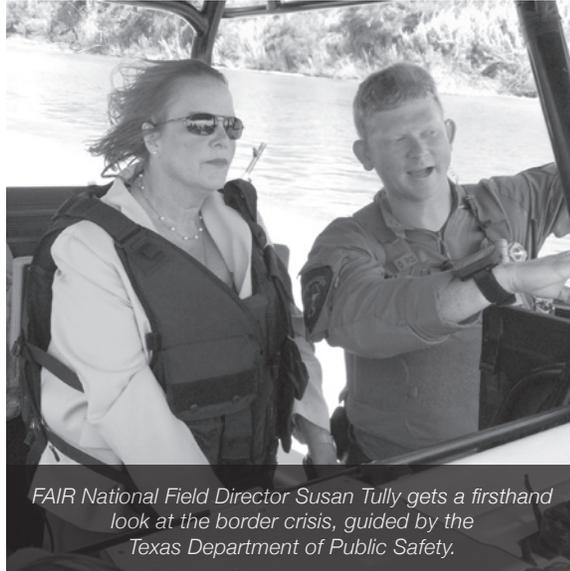
“WHAT COMES THROUGH OUR BORDERS, DOESN'T STAY AT OUR BORDERS.”

—Sheriff Sam Page, Vice Chair, National Sheriffs' Association Immigration and Border Security Committee

nize a visit by the sheriffs' coalition to the embattled McAllen, Texas, region and arranged briefings by federal, state, and local authorities who are on the front lines of the crisis.

Many of the sheriffs are already dealing with immigration-related crime in their own counties and expect that much more is on the way as a result of the surge of illegal aliens who are caught at the border and released into the United States. Both federal and local law enforcement authorities confirmed that Central American gangs are using the surge to essentially embed gang members among the thousands of other migrants illegally crossing the border.

According to Rockingham County, North Carolina, Sheriff Sam Page, who is the vice-chair of the National Sheriffs' Association Immigration and Border Security Committee, authorities know that gang members are lying about their age and are being released from cus-



FAIR National Field Director Susan Tully gets a firsthand look at the border crisis, guided by the Texas Department of Public Safety.



tody pending a hearing (which they will almost certainly not attend).

During their three days at the border, FAIR arranged “ride-alongs” with the Texas Department of Public Safety, which has been pressed into action as the crisis has continued unabated. The sheriffs were able to survey the situation from armor-plated DPS boats that patrol the U.S. side of the Rio Grande River and from

helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

At the end of the visit, the sheriffs were left with a clearer understanding of our nation's immigration crisis. This firsthand knowledge will give them the critical ability to develop their own law enforcement strategies for dealing with the consequences of the crisis, strategies they will share with their colleagues across the country. ■

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Americans Worry that Increased Immigration Threatens Their Way of Life

Despite clear and overwhelming unfavorable public opinion, Washington, and a growing number of state and local governments, seem deaf to the concerns of the American people. At the federal level, amnesty and increased immigration have become synonymous with “immigration reform,” while state and local governments continue to extend

new benefits and privileges to illegal aliens.

In July, a Gallup poll found that Americans now rank immigration as the most important problem facing the country today, surpassing dissatisfaction with government and the economy.

Perhaps even more startling were the findings of a July Reuters/

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

POLLING AMERICA *continued*

Ipsos poll which surveyed more than 2,000 respondents. According to that poll, 70 percent of Americans believe illegal aliens threaten traditional U.S. beliefs and customs.

The extravagant spending by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and business interests aimed at convincing Americans that mass immigration and amnesty would be a boon

to our economy has failed to win over public opinion.

The findings of both the Gallup and Reuters polls repudiate numerous push polls that have received much media attention over the past several years. These carefully worded polls, commissioned by pro-amnesty or business interests, invariably provided respondents with incom-

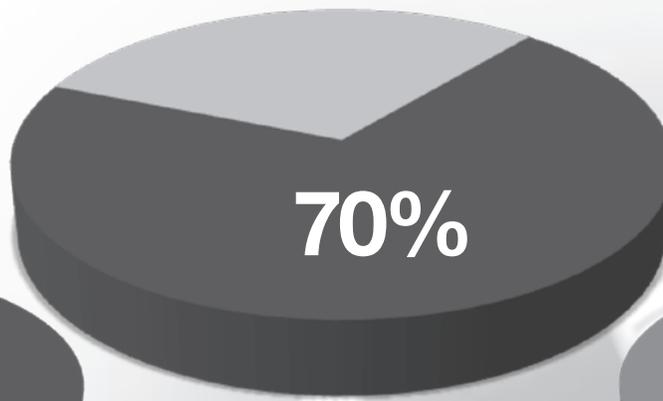
plete or misleading information and choices in soliciting their opinions.

FAIR has repeatedly refuted the findings of push polls and the widely reported conclusions that Americans support amnesty or increases in immigration.

Americans overwhelmingly oppose increases in immigration to the United States.

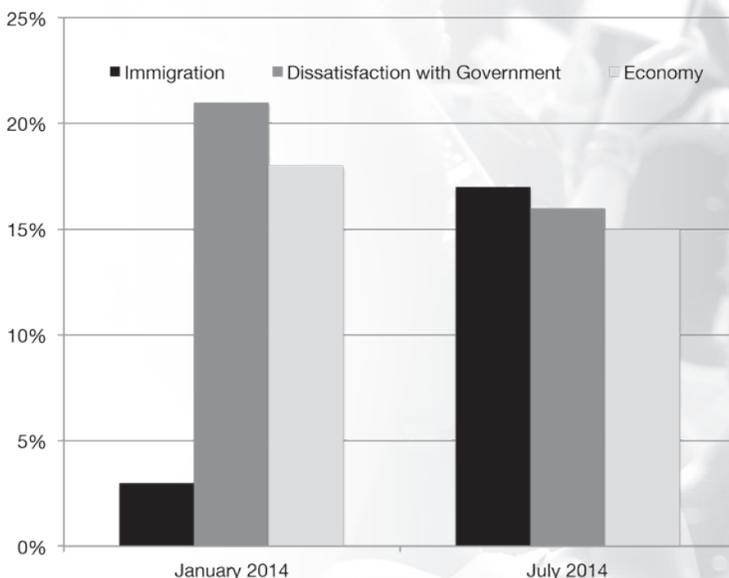
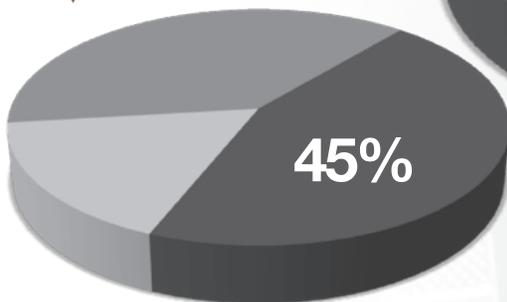
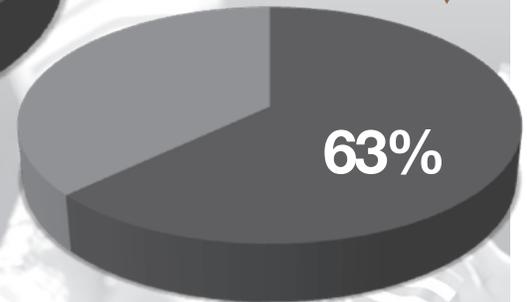
REUTERS/IPSOS

45% want to see overall immigration reduced, while only 17% favor increasing immigration. 38% said it should stay the same.



70% of Americans believe that illegal aliens threaten traditional U.S. beliefs and customs.

63% believe that immigrants place a burden on our economy.



GALLUP

Amidst the ongoing border crisis, immigration was seen as the most important issue by 17 percent of the public—up from just 3 percent in January. Immigration now ranks higher than dissatisfaction with government (16%), and even the economy (15%).

Prince George's County Educators Build Special Schools Just for Non-English Speakers

The *Washington Post* reported in July that Prince George's County, Maryland, will open two high schools specifically for "English language learners." Working with the county is CASA de Maryland (Central American Solidarity Association of Maryland), an affiliate of La Raza and a longtime advocate encouraging illegal immigration into Maryland.

The county received a grant of \$3 million from the Carnegie Cor-

poration of New York to open these schools, but the costs will vastly exceed this amount. And who will bear the additional costs? Prince George's County taxpayers.

The immense cost of English language education was the focus of a 2009 FAIR report, *English Language Learners and Immigration: A Case Study: Prince George's County, Maryland*. The report, by Eric A. Ruark, FAIR's Research Director,

found that P.G. County had one-third of all English language learner students in the state, and that more than one in ten students in the county's public schools were not proficient in English. When the report was published, the cost of teaching limited English proficient students in P.G. County was estimated to be between \$250.2 million and \$334.8 million a year—15 and 20 percent of the **total** money spent on public education in the

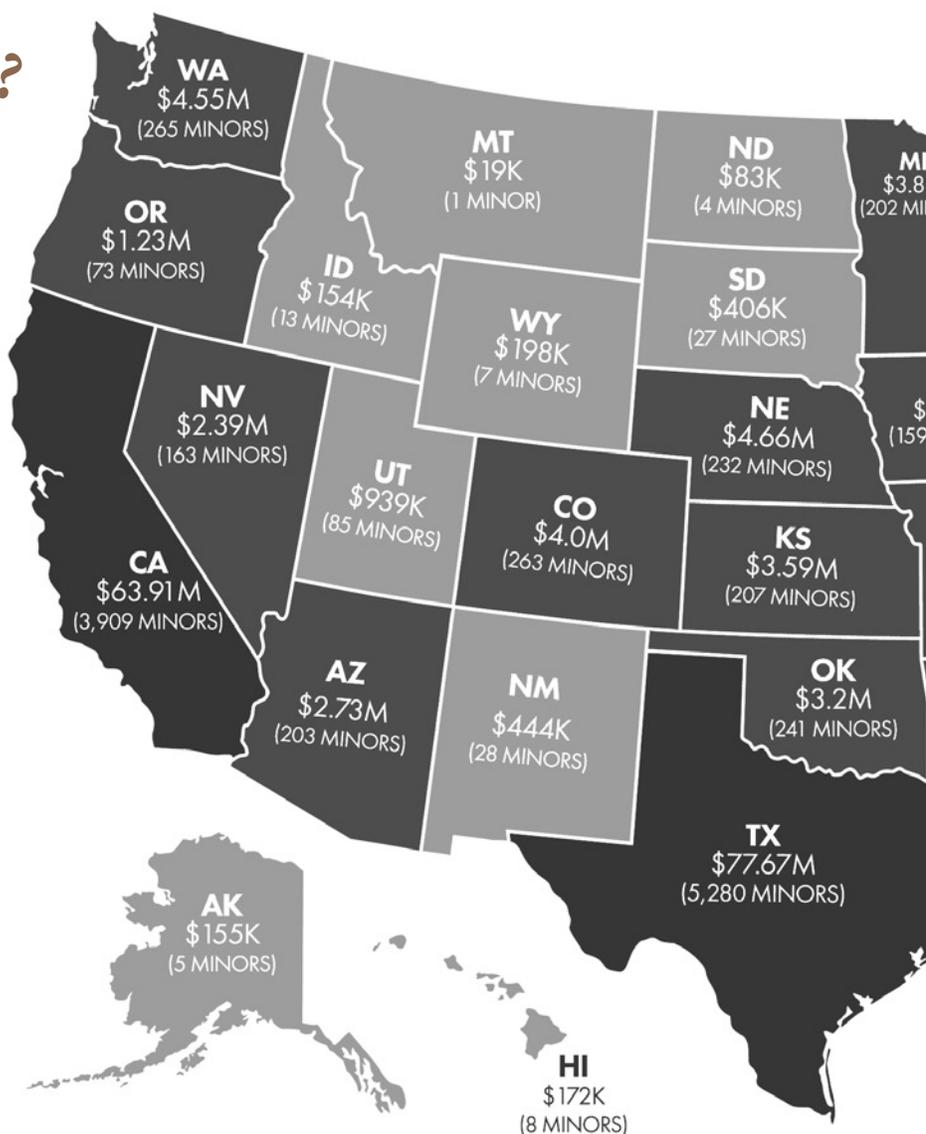
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Where Are They Now? (And How Much Will It Cost You?)

According to data from the Department of Health and Human Services, more than 37,000 of the unaccompanied illegal alien minors from the border crisis were released to relatives and other sponsors between January 1 and July 31.

Based on earlier estimates of the cost of educating limited english proficient students in public schools, FAIR came up with an estimate of how much it will cost taxpayers in each state to educate illegal alien minors in the coming school year.

Use the map to find the estimated taxpayer costs of providing K-12 education for the unaccompanied minors in your state.

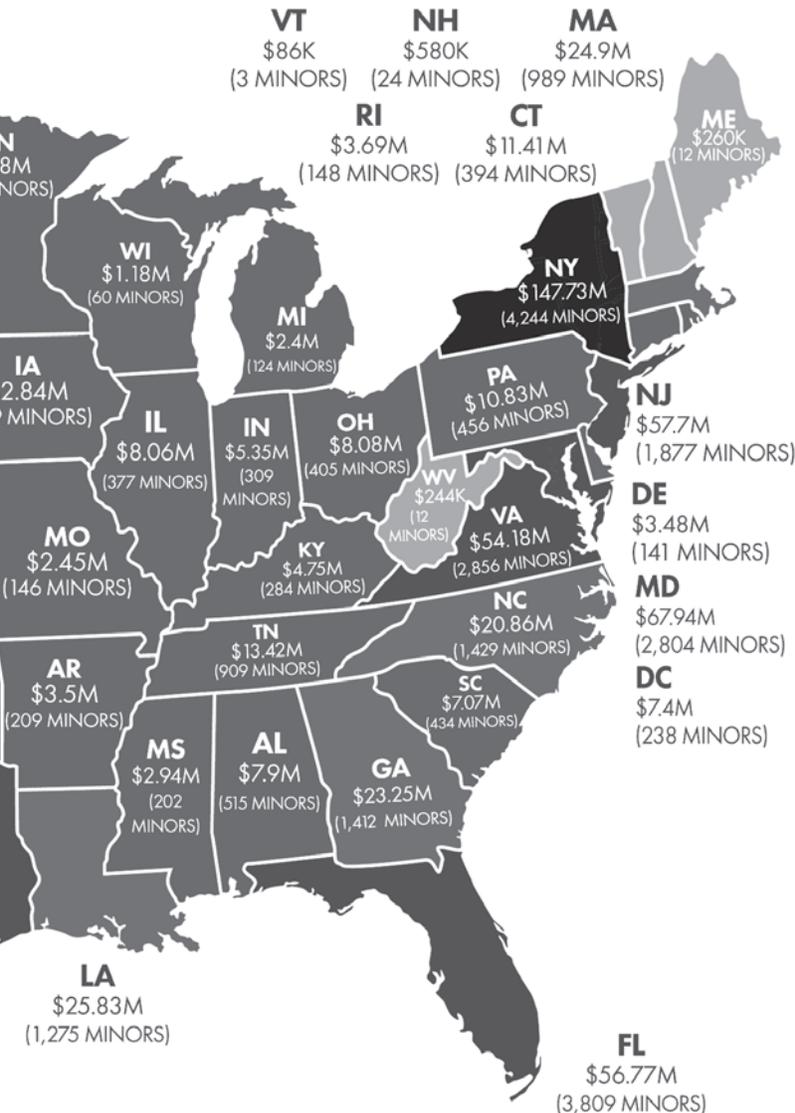


NEW LEP SCHOOLS IN M.D. *continued*

county in fiscal year 2008. Simply adjusted for inflation, that estimate would be between \$277 million and \$370.6 million today, though the costs are likely to be even higher given the continuing increase in LEP students. The *Washington Post* article reported that 15 percent, or more than one in seven students in Prince George's County, currently has limited proficiency in English.



Read the full FAIR report: *English Learners and Immigration, A Case Study: Prince George's County, Maryland* at www.fairus.org.



FROM OUR **ImmigrationReform.com**

Blog

Barack Obama Should Have Listened to Barack Obama

By Ira Mehlman, August 14, 2014

For the past several years, President Obama has been telling the illegal alien lobby that he does not have the constitutional authority to grant broad administrative amnesty. Then, suddenly, around March 2014, the president decided that maybe he did—or at least maybe his Secretary of Homeland Security and Attorney General could manufacture some flimsy claim to such authority.

In doing so, the president raised the expectations of the amnesty lobby and the left wing of the Democratic Party to a fever pitch. At the same time, he has also stoked the anger of a broad swath of the American electorate—70 percent of whom view illegal immigration as a threat to traditional U.S. beliefs and customs. That's not 70 percent of Republicans or conservatives; that's 70 percent of American society.

In turn, talk of a broad administrative amnesty is striking fear and anxiety in the hearts of Democratic politicians in all but the bluest of blue states and districts. They know how to read polls. Suddenly, leading Democratic senators, like Majority Leader Harry Reid (who does not want to become Minority Leader), Majority Whip Dick Durbin, and Chuck Schumer, who just a few months ago were exhorting the president to “go big,” have gone strangely silent.

Now the president is in a pickle. Moving ahead with his threatened abuse of discretionary authority to grant amnesty to some 5-6 million illegal aliens would likely prove fatal to Democratic candidates just about everywhere. If he does not act—after all but promising the amnesty coalition that he would—he risks alienating his party's left wing base, whose high turn-out rate in 2008 and 2012 put him in the White House and kept the Senate in Democratic hands.

It turns out that the smartest thing Barack Obama could have done in this instance would have been just to have listened to Barack Obama.

House Approves Bills to Address Border Crisis

It came right down to the wire, but late in the evening, on the final day before the August recess, the House of Representatives finally approved legislation to deal with the ongoing border crisis. Before leaving town, the House approved H.R. 5230, a Supplemental Appropriations bill that amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 so all unaccompanied minors have the same removal process (regardless of country of origin) without adding additional bureaucratic proceedings. The bill also provides \$694 million to manage the surge of unaccompanied minors, including \$35 million to reimburse Texas for the cost of sending the National Guard to the border.

In a separate vote, the House also took an important step to rein-in President Obama's asserted authority to grant amnesty to entire classes of illegal aliens through executive action. H.R. 5272 bars the president from expanding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or promulgating any other administrative amnesty.

In contrast to the House, which stuck around long enough to complete work on their legislation to address the border crisis, the Senate went on vacation with this important piece of business left unfinished. On its final day in session, the Senate took up its Supplemental Funding bill, S. 2648. A somewhat scaled back version of the president's \$3.7 billion request, the bill would

have granted the President \$2.7 billion dollars to deal with the border crisis, with no changes to the policies driving the crisis. The bill died on a procedural vote on July 31st by a margin of 50 to 44, ten votes shy of what was needed to allow it to proceed.

It is unlikely that the Senate will consider the House measures when they return to work after Labor Day. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has already indicated that Senate Democrats will not consider legislation that includes substantive changes to the TVPRA, or efforts to prevent the president from using his "pen and his phone" to grant amnesty and work authorization to millions of additional illegal aliens.

The final version of H.R. 5230 represents an important first step in remedying a crisis that was precipitated by the Obama administration's policies. But it is a first step that almost didn't happen. One day earlier, the House leadership was forced to pull a different version of the bill from consideration when it became clear that it did not have the votes to pass.

That version of H.R. 5230 included policy changes, authored by Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Texas), which would have made it more difficult to remove alien minors. A key factor fueling the surge is the knowledge that the layers of procedure necessary to remove minors from noncontiguous countries are creat-

ing huge backlogs that result in illegal aliens being allowed to remain here for years.

FAIR's analysis of the Cornyn-Cuellar bill revealed that rather than expediting the removal of illegal alien minors who have no valid claim to remain in the U.S., the bill would have created a longer removal process for everyone. Our analysis was widely circulated on Capitol Hill, resulting in the House leadership's last minute decision to postpone a vote and make major revisions to the legislation.

The final version of H.R. 5230 was passed on August 1 by a vote of 223-189.

The additional funding in the bill was some \$3 billion less than what President Obama requested from Congress. The president was not happy with either the amount of money in the House bill, or the changes to the TVPRA, which he originally supported. Nor was he pleased with H.R. 5272, Rep. Marsha Blackburn's (R-Tenn.) legislation barring further administrative amnesties, which passed by a 216-192 margin. "The legislation put forward tonight by House Republicans does not

HOUSE BORDER CRISIS BILL *continued*

responsibly address the problem of unaccompanied children apprehended at the border, and could result in the deportation of hundreds of thousands of DREAMers, young people who were brought to this country as children and are Americans in every way but on paper,” said a White House press release.

There is little chance that either H.R. 5230 or H.R.

5272 will be voted on in the Senate, and no chance at all that if passed in the Senate President Obama would sign them. Nevertheless, the House action places the ball squarely in the court of Senate Democrats and the White House to offer their own solutions, other than simply throwing more money at a crisis widely acknowledged to have been created by the president’s policies. ■

Obama Vows to Ignore the Law and “Act Alone” This Summer

Seizing on the House of Representative’s refusal to hand him \$3.7 billion to manage the border crisis and its insistence on policy changes to stem future flows of illegal immigration, President Obama reiterated his pledge to take new executive action to protect millions of illegal aliens from removal, and to grant many of them authorization to work in the United States.



In an impromptu press conference on August 1, President Obama set the stage for dramatically expanding his administrative amnesty programs by the summer’s end. His remarks echoed those made by White House press secretary Josh Earnest a day earlier. During a press briefing, Earnest told reporters that “the president is considering measures that he could take on his own.”

Earlier this year, President Obama indicated that he would expand these programs by asking Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to do a “review” of the Department’s deportation practices in order to find a more “humane” way of handling the deportation of illegal aliens. Then, speaking to the White House press corps at the end of June, the president announced that he plans to unilaterally implement many provisions of the Senate Gang

of Eight amnesty bill, S. 744, even if the House refuses to act on it.

Throughout the summer, White House aides held private meetings with Democratic lawmakers and open borders advocates discussing their options. They told amnesty advocates that the administration is considering granting amnesty to approximately five million illegal aliens, such as relatives of U.S. citizens, relatives of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries, or those who have resided illegally in the United States for a long time.

These actions would directly contradict President Obama’s repeated assertions that he lacks the constitutional authority to carry out such sweeping policy changes. Such a move by Mr. Obama would take us into uncharted constitutional territory. While the expected presidential action is clearly beyond the limits of the president’s executive power, it is uncertain what actions Congress would take to prevent the president from acting unilaterally. ■

During a press briefing, White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters that “the president is considering measures that he could take on his own.”

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