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### **Making News: Bank of America Crosses the Line by Issuing Credit Cards to Illegal Aliens**

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### **Government Prosecutors Reportedly Gave Illegal Alien Drug Smuggler a Second “Get Out of Jail Free” Card**

Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean remain in a federal prison where they have been violently attacked by other prisoners. Meanwhile, new reports are surfacing that the illegal alien drug smuggler who they are convicted of having shot, has been given de facto immunity for yet another offense.

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While most of the attention is focused on the problems of mass illegal immigration, the nation’s bloated and ineffective legal immigration system is equally in need of an overhaul. Rather than “legal immigration,” a more accurate term for the current policy ought to be “government mandated immigration.”

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### **Book Review: *Snooker Glen* by D.F. Whipple**

Although *Snooker Glen* is fiction, and the time line is several decades ago, the story is eerily evocative of today's reality in which foreign workers are seen by employers as a more complacent and cheaper workforce than American workers. The setting is a northeastern Kentucky coal mining town where American workers go on strike over unsafe working conditions. The owner is only concerned about profits and has political connections. Sound familiar?

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### **Oklahoma Legislation Demonstrates the Growing Effectiveness of Grassroots Immigration Reform Efforts**

The overwhelming majority of California's fruit and vegetable crops are harvested by low wage illegal aliens or agricultural guest workers. Without those workers, the argument goes, we'd all be paying much higher prices for produce at the supermarket checkout stand. Enter Mother Nature.

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### **From the Hill—Immigration: More Than Just the Numbers by Rep. Buck McKeon**

The statesman and political philosopher Edmund Burke once said, "A nation is not a thing of mere physical locality." That is why the debate on immigration policy has become so heated. It is not just a discussion about how many people the nation needs to admit to sustain its economic development. It is, rather, at its core a discussion about just what kind of nation the United States is going to be.

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### **McCain-Kennedy Guest Worker Amnesty Bill: The Sequel**

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### **Reformer Corner: George Gush and Francine Verborg**

George Gush was listening to a nationally syndicated talk show when a woman called up and vented her anger with the State Farm Insurance company due to its support of the National Council of La Raza. As a long time activist and State Farm policyholder, the caller immediately caught Gush's attention. Coincidentally, Gush had recently contacted FAIR and was given the contact information for Francine Verborg, an activist who lived near him in Orange County, California and was interested in boycotting State Farm. Shortly after calling Francine to introduce himself, he would later learn that she was the caller to that talk show. "So, we partnered up for the cause," recounted George.

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### **Timely Tax Tip**

Owners of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are required by law to take a minimum yearly distribution from their IRAs once they reach age 70 (the amount of the distribution varies according to the value of the IRA and the age of the owner). In many cases, this required distribution will trigger additional federal income taxes.

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### **Seven Reasons Why the McCain-Kennedy Guest Worker Amnesty is NOT a Done Deal**

With both houses of Congress now in Democratic hands and the White House controlled by the pro-guest worker amnesty Bush Administration, many pundits have concluded that passage of legislation along the lines of the McCain-Kennedy bill is a foregone conclusion. It is not.

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## **“Hold Their Feet to the Fire” Unites Talk Radio Hosts and Citizens in Year’s Largest “Real” Immigration Reform Drive**

More than two dozen leading radio talk shows, hundreds of their listeners and immigration reform activists from across the country will descend on Washington, D.C., the week of April 23, to demonstrate the public’s demands that U.S. immigration laws be enforced and that Congress reject efforts to grant amnesty to millions of illegal aliens. In addition to the media personalities and immigration reform activists who will be coming to Washington as part of the “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” effort, other radio talk show hosts and thousands of citizens will be participating from home, saturating the airwaves and flooding congressional offices with phone calls.

“Hold Their Feet to the Fire” is being organized jointly by FAIR and KOGO San Diego talk show host Roger Hedgecock. The event will include more than two dozen other talk show hosts who will originate their programs from a media center FAIR has set up just blocks from the Capitol. For three days, the hosts will devote their programs to discussions about immigration with members of Congress, policy experts and ordinary citizens who have come to Washington to take their case directly to their elected representatives.

In addition to demands that Congress enact and enforce immigration laws that protect the interests and security of the nation and reject any legislation that includes amnesty for people who are in the U.S. illegally, “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” participants will also take up the cause of Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean, the two Border Patrol officers who are serving long prison sentences for having defended themselves and the American public against an illegal alien drug smuggler. The wives and other family members of the two officers will be in Washington pleading the cases of the two men and showing their appreciation for the support they have received from so many people across the country.

While no one is certain when Congress will consider immigration legislation, most experts agree that if it happens at all, the issue will most likely be taken up in late spring or summer.

“Hold Their Feet to the Fire,” set for the week of April 23, is a critically timed response to efforts by the opposition to pass a massive illegal alien amnesty and guest worker program. Using the radio airwaves and phone calls to every member of Congress, the American people have an opportunity to demonstrate immigration enforcement is a top priority for them and that they will hold politicians who ignore the will of the public accountable.

The pro-illegal alien advocacy network is also gearing up for a major lobbying effort of its own around the same time, to include street protests, telephone calls to congressional offices, and visits by illegal aliens and their supporters.

The event also promises to receive extensive attention from the news media that have indicated that they intend to cover it as a news event.

While working Americans who want our immigration laws enforced generally do not participate in massive street protests, “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” will provide a visible response to the efforts of the pro-illegal alien lobby.

## **What You Can Do to Make Your Voice Heard**

Though time is growing short, there is still an opportunity for people who wish to come to Washington to participate directly in "Hold Their Feet to the Fire." If you wish to participate in the citizen lobbying effort in Washington, please go to [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org) to register. But even if you cannot come to Washington, you can still do your part by doing the following:

1. Call your favorite talk radio station and urge them to be part of the national dialogue during the week of April 23.
2. During "Hold Their Feet to the Fire" week call in to radio talk shows in your area and urge other listeners to make their voices heard.
3. Write letters to the editors of your local newspapers in support of true immigration reform and to inform them of the Hold Their Feet to the Fire event in April.
4. Call both of your senators and your House representative and let them know that you want U.S. immigration laws enforced, officers Ramos and Compean released, and that you adamantly oppose amnesty and guest worker programs.

Because of the overwhelming response from people all across the country to the outrageous demands of the illegal alien lobby in 2006, we succeeded in stopping the McCain-Kennedy amnesty dead in its tracks. Unfortunately, the illegal alien lobby has not given up — they are planning yet another round of street demonstrations on May 1 — and neither can we. Participating in "Hold Their Feet to the Fire," either in Washington or from home, will be the best opportunity to demonstrate that the American public is firm in its commitment to enforcing the laws of this country and true immigration reform.

# Making News

## *Bank of America Crosses the Line by Issuing Credit Card to Illegal Aliens*

The following op-ed by FAIR President Dan Stein appeared in the February 26, 2007, edition of the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.

The timing could not have been worse for Bank of America to announce that it would begin issuing credit cards to illegal aliens. News of Bank of America's decision was published in the *Wall Street Journal* the same day that a new Harris Poll revealed that Americans perceive the two greatest threats to their security to be illegal immigration and the outsourcing of American jobs.

Even more than the prospect of the Iranians or the North Koreans with nukes, Americans believe that their security is threatened by millions of people pouring across our borders and by corporations that appear willing to sell out the interests of American workers. In one decision, Bank of America managed to pluck two raw nerves by appearing to encourage illegal immigration, while sending the message that they would not let any national interest stand in the way of them making a buck.

The Bank of America decision and the overwhelming negative public reaction to it, illustrates the growing disconnect between the elite and everyone else in this country. To the elite — including the current occupant of the White House — the traditional idea of the nation has become a bothersome anachronism. To the extent that the entity known as the United States has any relevance at all to them, it is to secure their ability to conduct business and maximize their corporate bottom lines. Concepts of patriotism and loyalty are marketing tools and nothing more.

To Bank of America and other large corporations, illegal immigrants are a source of low wage labor and an untapped customer market. It matters not that illegal immigrants are breaking the laws of the United States, taking jobs from and driving down wages for middle class workers, burdening schools (not the ones the children of B of A executives attend, of course) and other vital public services. What matters to the banking industry is that, collectively, the estimated 12 to 15 million illegal aliens living in the United States, have purchasing power and that there is money to be made off of serving them.

It is true that Bank of America did not create the illegal immigration crisis in the United States, although banking industry decisions to allow illegal aliens to open bank accounts, take out home mortgages and now obtain credit cards has certainly added to the problem. But the fact that the federal government has done little to resolve the problem of illegal immigration does not mean that banks and other business interests have an unfettered right to profit from illegal immigration. Bank of America did not create the illegal drug problem in the United States, but that does not entitle them to market services to the drug cartels, even though it would be enormously profitable to do so.

The plan to issue credit cards to illegal aliens is also overtly discriminatory, giving a new meaning to their corporate slogan: "Bank of America, Higher Standards" (for some). While American citizens and legal U.S. residents are held to one standard in order to obtain credit, illegal aliens will be held to a lower standard. The plastic that any of us tote around in our wallets required us to open our entire lives to our creditors and to provide verification of our identities and credit-worthiness. In their hunger to make money off of illegal aliens Bank of

America is prepared to accept easily counterfeited Mexican matricula cards as proof of identity, and maintaining a checking account for three months as a credit history.

Bank of America has obviously felt the sting of a public backlash, as evidenced by their sudden reluctance to discuss it in the media. Some people have gone so far as to pull their accounts out of Bank of America. But given the consolidation of the banking industry generally, and the fact that a handful of banks have a corner on the credit card market, it will require government action to stop financial institutions from pursuing profits in blatant disregard of the law and the public interest.

Existing federal law clearly prohibits "encouraging or inducing unauthorized aliens to enter the United States, and engaging in a conspiracy or aiding and abetting" people who violate U.S. immigration laws. Products and services specifically marketed to illegal aliens, intended to make it easier to live and work in the U.S. illegally, violates the spirit if not the letter of the law.

To Bank of America, illegal aliens are just customers and the United States nothing more than a market. To the American people, illegal immigration and corporate greed are seen as serious threats to their security. Bank of America has provided the proof that both are inexorably intertwined.

## Bank of America Hits Raw Nerve with Decision to Issue Credit Cards to Illegal Aliens

First the American banking industry lobbied to create loopholes in the USA Patriot Act that would allow them to open accounts for people who lacked valid U.S. identification documents. Next, several banks decided to grant home mortgage loans to illegal aliens, in spite of the fact that they are a credit risk and lack the legal right to even live in the homes they are buying. Finally, Bank of America's decision to issue credit cards to people without proper identification and only scant credit histories touched off a firestorm of public protest. To millions of Americans, and not a few lawmakers on Capitol Hill who are fed up with mass illegal immigration, Bank of America's shameless effort to profit from this national crisis seemed to cross the line.

Under the Bank of America policy, people without Social Security numbers (read: illegal aliens) or a credit history will be eligible to receive credit cards that make it easier for them to live in the U.S. While Americans and legal immigrants will be held to one set of standards for securing credit from the nation's second largest bank, illegal aliens will be held to a lower standard to obtain credit. "These people are coming here for quality of life, and they deserve somebody to give them a chance to achieve that quality of life," explained Bank of America's Brian Tuite.

Public reaction to Bank of America's policy, which is already being implemented in Los Angeles, was so negative that bank officials refused all media appearances to justify a policy that amounts to profiting from illegal activities. Finally, after maintaining ten days of silence on the matter, Bank of America CEO Kenneth Lewis published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal in which he acknowledged the negative public reaction, but declared the bank's intention to maintain the policy nonetheless.

Lewis denied that Bank of America is targeting illegal aliens with its new credit card program, despite the fact that almost without exception, people who lack valid U.S. identity documents are in the country illegally. Knowing that with consolidation in the banking industry a handful of banks now control most of the credit card market, (Citigroup also issues credit cards to illegal aliens and Wells Fargo is considering entering the illegal alien credit card business) Bank of America dismissed public opposition to the program. "After a week of listening to our customers, we have made a decision. We continue our pilot card marketing program," Lewis wrote.

It is precisely this pervasive attitude among many businesses that inspired the creation of the FAIR Approved program, announced in the March edition of the FAIR Immigration Report. Obviously taking on multi-billion dollar corporations like Bank of America is far beyond the means available to immigration reform advocates. However, as consumers, we can influence smaller businesses that depend on our patronage by patronizing those who operate in the public interest and refuse to support illegal immigration. As FAIR Approved gains momentum, it will provide economic incentives for companies to act responsibly and avoid hiring illegal aliens or engage in business practices that encourage illegal immigration.

## Government Prosecutors Reportedly Gave Illegal Alien Drug Smuggler a Second “Get Out of Jail Free” Card

Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean remain in a federal prison where they have been violently attacked by other prisoners.

Meanwhile, new reports are surfacing that the illegal alien drug smuggler who they are convicted of having shot, has been given de facto immunity for yet another offense. Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila, a convicted smuggler who was shot by the Border Patrol officers after he violently resisted arrest in February 2005, was granted immunity from prosecution by U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton in order to gain his testimony against the two agents.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) charges that federal prosecutors, in their zeal to gain Aldrete-Davila's cooperation in their case against Ramos and Compean, ignored a second incident in which he is alleged to have smuggled \$1 million worth of marijuana into the United States eight months after the incident that led to the prosecution of the Border Patrol officers. Aldrete-Davila was identified as the smuggler in an October 2005 sting operation conducted by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Aldrete-Davila's immunity agreement covered only the February incident in which he was shot. Yet, according to Rohrabacher, the government failed to take action against Aldrete-Davila in the October case, and U.S. Attorney Sutton did not disclose this important information to jurors in the trial against Ramos and Compean.

Gaining the release of Officers Ramos and Compean will be an important component of this month's Hold Their Feet to the Fire campaign (April 23-25), organized by FAIR and San Diego radio host Roger Hedgecock.

Talk radio, along with CNN's Lou Dobbs, have continued to focus media attention on the plight of the two border agents and their families. As a result of the attention this case has received, pressure is growing to have the men's convictions overturned, or to have President Bush grant them a pardon.

FAIR, which took up their cause early on in the case, is planning to include a fundraising event on behalf of the Ramos and Compean families during Hold Their Feet to the Fire week. The wives of both officers will be in attendance during the event. People who cannot attend Hold Their Feet to the Fire but who wish to contribute to the defense fund for Ramos and Compean should contact the FAIR office.



# One State Takes a Stand on Legal Immigration

While most of the attention is focused on the problems of mass illegal immigration, the nation's bloated and ineffective legal immigration system is equally in need of an overhaul. Rather than "legal immigration," a more accurate term for the current policy ought to be "government mandated immigration." And like most government mandates, it has become an expensive and self-perpetuating program that has little relevance to the national interest.

One of the biggest issues related to government mandated immigration is the growing public cost of providing services and benefits to people who have been granted entry to the United States based on a policy of extended family reunification, or chain migration. Family-based immigrants, who constitute the vast majority of the government mandated immigration flow, are admitted irrespective of their skills and education, or their sponsor's ability to take care of their needs.

One state, Connecticut, has had enough. Burdened with escalating costs for services and benefits for government mandated immigrants, Connecticut's Department of Social Services has decided to bill the immigrants' sponsors, rather than force everyone else in the state to pay. Immigrants who settle in this country to join family members must be sponsored by their petitioning relatives who sign declarations which commit them, not the public, to be responsible for the needs of the people they bring here. Such sponsorship commitments are routinely ignored by both the sponsors and the government while immigrants who are unable to make it on their own wind up relying on a variety of government programs and services.

The growing burden on state and local government illustrates the need for key reforms to our legal immigration policies. These reforms include:

- Ending family chain migration. Extended family immigration is the driving force behind ever-higher levels of legal immigration. Family-based immigration must be limited to the nuclear family, i.e., spouses and unmarried minor children.
- Merit-based immigration. The individual qualifications of a prospective immigrant to succeed in the United States — not having a relative here — should be the primary basis for admission.
- Enforcement of sponsorship commitments. The federal government must assess the financial ability of a sponsor to honor a sponsorship agreement; require the sponsors to purchase health insurance policies for those for whom they petition; and compel sponsors to cover costs for services provided to the immigrants they bring to this country, rather than turning to the taxpayers.

Immigration is first and foremost a public policy and must serve the interests of the nation and the American people. While the federal government has failed to formulate a policy that meets these criteria, Connecticut is demonstrating that state and local governments have the ability to act on their own to protect the public interest.

## Book Review

### *Snooker Glen* by D.F. Whipple

Although *Snooker Glen* is fiction, and the time line is several decades ago, the story is eerily evocative of today's reality in which foreign workers are seen by employers as a more complacent and cheaper workforce than American workers. The setting is a northeastern Kentucky coal mining town where American workers go on strike over unsafe working conditions. The owner is only concerned about profits and has political connections. Sound familiar?

Besides being a good read and a treat for immigration reformers, this book has the potential to provoke introspection by readers who have never thought much about immigration. The issues that are interwoven in this tale include the responsibility of an employer to his community, the vulnerability of workers doing one of the nation's hardest and dirtiest jobs to protect their livelihood, the willingness of an employer to exploit loopholes to replace American workers with foreign workers, and how these events impact on the individuals who live through this experience.

Whipple has carefully shaped his plot to circumvent knee-jerk responses by people who tend to charge anyone who questions today's immoderate immigration as being prejudiced against foreigners. The value of this approach is that you can give a copy of *Snooker Glen* to your in-laws, cousins or your neighbor with whom you may disagree politically, and they will thank you.

*Snooker Glen* may be ordered from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

# Around the Country

## Missouri

Following a growing national trend, brought on by grassroots opposition to granting in-state tuition benefits to illegal aliens in state universities, Missouri has gone a step further and is moving toward denying illegal aliens entry into public universities. By a 122-35 vote on February 28, the Missouri House approved a measure that would require state-run college and university administrators to certify that the students they admit are legally present in the U.S. Missouri is a state where a strong activist base has helped enact a series of measures designed to deter illegal immigration. Efforts in Missouri have been so successful in fact that FAIR has recently hired Kansas City activist Joyce Mucci to serve as a field representative responsible for activist organizing in the southern U.S.

## Tennessee

Another state in which local activism has made a real difference is Tennessee. Just a few years ago, the state ignored security risks and the will of the public and decided to offer driver's licenses to illegal aliens. That defiance of the public led to an upsurge in grassroots activism, as FAIR worked closely with local groups such as Tennesseans for Responsible Immigration Policies (TNRIP) to oppose efforts to accommodate illegal immigration. In February, deputies from the Davidson County Sheriff's Department, (Davidson County is home to the state capital, Nashville) began receiving federal immigration enforcement training under a provision known as 287(g). Unfortunately, the final decision to obtain 287(g) training was precipitated by the needless death of a local couple killed by an illegal alien drunk driver, and the realization that law enforcement did not have the means at their disposal to remove this individual before he destroyed two lives.

## Ohio

Under the leadership of Sheriff Richard K. Jones, Butler County, Ohio, has taken a strong stance against illegal immigration. Butler County deputies began receiving 287(g) training last December, and the results are already evident. Local businesses that have catered to illegal aliens complain that Butler County's efforts have been successful and they are losing business as a result. The sheriff's office is unmoved by the plight of businesses that have profited from illegal immigration. "I can't help it if your business drops because the illegals have left and that's where you got your business," responded one deputy sheriff.

## New York

Eastern Long Island has long been an area with a strong grassroots immigration reform network. Beginning with efforts to stop a day labor hiring center from being constructed in the town of Farmingville, FAIR has worked with local activists to promote meaningful immigration law enforcement. Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy has become a strong proponent of immigration enforcement opposing the day labor center and cracking down on landlords who cram dozens of illegal aliens into single family dwellings. In February, Suffolk County entered into an agreement with federal immigration authorities to place agents in local jails to identify and remove illegal aliens.

# Oklahoma Legislation Demonstrates the Growing Effectiveness of Grassroots Immigration Reform Efforts

Congress and the Bush Administration may still be ignoring the demands of the American public for true comprehensive immigration reform and enforcement, but thanks to the growing network of grassroots activist organizations around the country, significant progress is being made at the state and local level. Oklahoma is a state that FAIR has invested considerable time and effort to assist local activists who are making a real difference in the immigration reform effort. That investment has been rewarded with real legislative victories in the state.

Working closely with Immigration Reform for Oklahoma Now (IRON) FAIR and the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) have helped craft what are described as the toughest state laws against illegal immigration. That legislation cleared its first hurdle, when it was being approved by the Oklahoma House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee by a 14-3 majority on Feb. 28. The bill's author, Randy Terrill, predicts that it will eventually pass both houses of the Oklahoma legislature and be signed by Gov. Brad Henry.

The Oklahoma bill would bar illegal aliens from obtaining driver's licenses and other state-issued ID, require state and local government agencies to verify citizenship or legal immigration status before dispensing benefits, and would require employers to verify the work eligibility of the people they hire. The bill would also repeal in-state tuition benefits that were granted to illegal aliens in 2003.

Oklahoma is just the latest example of what can be achieved with strong cooperation between local activist groups and FAIR. FAIR and IRLI have worked with state and local government officials to draft strong legislation aimed at addressing mass illegal immigration at the local level. We urge FAIR members and activists to contact FAIR to discuss how this sort of success can be replicated in your state or city.

# From the Hill

## *Immigration: More Than Just the Numbers*

By Rep. Buck McKeon

The statesman and political philosopher Edmund Burke once said, "A nation is not a thing of mere physical locality." That is why the debate on immigration policy has become so heated. It is not just a discussion about how many people the nation needs to admit to sustain its economic development. It is, rather, at its core a discussion about just what kind of nation the United States is going to be.

The urgency of the debate on immigration is linked to numbers — and those numbers are staggering. It is estimated that there are currently between 11 million and 12 million illegal immigrants residing in the United States. On top of that, an additional 500,000 people illegally cross the border each year, overwhelming a system that is already overburdened. This does not include the 750,000 to 1 million immigrants who legally enter the country each year.

Except perhaps in wartime, the nation has never experienced population shifts of these dimensions, and it is unclear just what kind of sociological consequences such changes will have. Certainly, permitting a population that is broadly unfamiliar with the English language to enter the United States in large numbers is something of an uncontrolled social experiment. The precedents for such an experiment are not promising. History, from Belgium to the Balkans, suggests that societies without a common language are not happy, let alone economically prosperous.

That argument is buttressed by these facts: 90% of the increase in people living below the poverty line has come from the immigrant Hispanic population. Not un-coincidentally, since 1980, the number of Hispanics with incomes below poverty level has increased 162%. (The comparable numbers for non-Hispanic whites is 3% and for African-Americans, 9.5%.) In 2004, the already low median wages for foreign born Hispanics in the United States dropped 1.6%. As the journalist Robert Samuelson has noted, America is literally importing Mexico's poverty.

Even more worrisome, 43% of Hispanics live in neighborhoods with Hispanic majorities — up from 39% in 1990. This is an extraordinary reversal of the usual trend where, as immigrant populations grow in number, they become more, not less, integrated. If demography is destiny, then the American public is right to be concerned about the implications of this statistic.

It is axiomatic that a nation that does not control its borders is not really a sovereign nation. That is why the United States must, before addressing any other issue, reassert control of its borders and enforce existing immigration laws as was outlined in the bill passed by the House of Representatives in 2005.

In this connection, the United States must not grant illegal immigrants a pathway to citizenship — amnesty by whatever name. The argument that the Senate immigration bill does not grant “amnesty” because it imposes penalties on illegal immigrants before allowing them to apply for citizenship is tendentious. It is premised on a paradoxical, if unstated, idea that citizenship ought to be a reward for behavior antithetical to the notion of citizenship. Furthermore, it implies that illegal immigration is simply another violation of the law — like speeding or running a traffic light — rather than a negation, one pair of feet at a time, of America’s status as a sovereign country.

More than most countries, the United States is not a “mere thing of physical locality.” It is not simply territory and people, rather it is, as Lincoln said, a nation dedicated to a proposition. That proposition is one of free government and of ordered liberty. For that idea to endure across generations, there must be a citizenry that is deeply marinated in the cultural and political ethos of the nation — including fluency in its language and its history. Serving time and paying back taxes, as the Senate bill proposes, is not sufficient.

The Senate bill is frivolous about things that responsible nations should not be frivolous about — including the idea of what constitutes a citizen. That is why the United States must be stern in the enforcement of its immigration laws. Because it is not just a matter of how many people cross the border, but of what is in their heads when they get here.

*(The above is a condensed version of a January 31, 2007 article authored by Howard “Buck” McKeon, the Congressman for the 25th District of California in the United States House of Representatives.)*

## McCain-Kennedy Guest Worker Amnesty Bill: The Sequel

If you thought the McCain-Kennedy legislation passed by the Senate last May, S. 2611, was a wholesale capitulation to the illegal alien advocacy and big business lobbies, you're really going to hate the sequel.

In late February, the Senate Judiciary Committee, now under the gavel of the pro-amnesty chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), began holding hearings on McCain-Kennedy II. Like S. 2611, the 2007 version of the McCain-Kennedy bill is likely to offer legalization to most or all of the illegal aliens residing in the U.S. (and countless more who can provide easily forged documentation certifying their presence in the U.S.), and a generous guest worker program that allows business interests easy access to foreign labor. The guarantees to illegal aliens and their employers will be offset by promises of future immigration enforcement which, based on a long track record, will never be fulfilled.

Though the legislation had already been written before the first hearing was held, the Senate Judiciary Committee is likely to spend weeks listening to testimony from experts and interest groups on all sides of the immigration debate. Leading off the ritual hearing process, the Judiciary Committee heard testimony from two Bush cabinet officials who tap danced their way around delicate questions about how to reward tens of millions of lawbreakers with legal status while denying that it is an amnesty.

While both the congressional Democratic leadership and the Bush Administration want to grant legal status to illegal aliens, both parties have accurately gauged the extreme unpopularity of amnesty with the voters. "That is something we need to discuss, we need to think through," said Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, explaining how Congress and the White House might enact a massive legalization program that they could sell to the American public as something other than amnesty. "Some of that becomes in the eye of the beholder, and that's what we have to define," agreed Chairman Leahy.

Whatever semantic contortions the Senate and the Bush Administration inflict on the English language, the bill that finally emerges from the Senate is likely to look as bad as, or worse than, the 2006 version of McCain-Kennedy. Stopping McCain-Kennedy II will require that all of us who worked successfully to kill the bill last year, replicate and enhance those efforts in 2007.

Through the media and outreach to our members and activists around the country, FAIR is already working overtime to educate the American public about disastrous consequences of the amnesty (Yes, it is an amnesty!) and guest worker provisions of McCain-Kennedy II. Much like 2006, when the American public is confronted with the truth about what the Senate and the Bush Administration are proposing, they are overwhelmingly opposed to it.

Over the coming weeks and months, FAIR will be providing members and supporters with the latest information they need to be active participants in this vital national debate. If you have not already done so, we urge you to go to FAIR's website, [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org), and sign up for our Legislative Alerts. Please act on these alerts and share them with friends, family and colleagues. The special interests that support amnesty and guest worker programs are hard at work promoting their favored legislation. The American people, who by a significant margin oppose amnesty and guest worker programs, must be equally as determined to prevent any such legislation from reaching the president's desk. If all of us do our parts, we can defeat McCain-Kennedy again in 2007 and hopefully forever.



## Reformer Corner

### *George Gush and Francine Verbarq*

George Gush was listening to a nationally syndicated talk show when a woman called up and vented her anger with the State Farm Insurance company due to its support of the National Council of La Raza. As a long time activist and State Farm policyholder, the caller immediately caught Gush's attention. Coincidentally, Gush had recently contacted FAIR and was given the contact information for Francine Verbarq, an activist who lived near him in Orange County, California and was interested in boycotting State Farm. Shortly after calling Francine to introduce himself, he would later learn that she was the caller to that talk show. "So, we partnered up for the cause," recounted George.

Gush and Verbarq passionately believe that it is critical to shine a spotlight on corporate financial support of open borders advocacy groups. Additionally, you must have quantifiable objectives to measure results and determine success. They believe their targeting of State Farm meets these two objectives.

They are asking State Farm policy holders to cancel their policies and to report their cancellations to them via their web site at [BoycottStateFarmInsurance.com](http://BoycottStateFarmInsurance.com). Their goal is to garner \$500,000 in annual policy cancellations, which is equivalent to the financial contribution State Farm has made to the National Council of La Raza.

One of the major problems with boycotts in general is that no one can truly measure the impact of such an action. "With direct feedback from subscribers who have cancelled their policies, we know with absolute certainty how much of an impact our efforts are having on State Farm," states Verbarq. "Also, our efforts have a residual effect in that the annual income is also lost in future years."

"When you take into account that many customers have their homes and their cars insured with the same company, each cancellation can represent several thousand dollars a year. It doesn't take long for the financial impact to mount," said Gush. Nearly two dozen customers have already cancelled, Gush says.

If you would like to learn more about this effort or find a list of insurance carriers deemed acceptable by Verbarq and Gush, please visit their web site at [BoycottStateFarmInsurance.com](http://BoycottStateFarmInsurance.com).

## Timely Tax Tip

Owners of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are required by law to take a minimum yearly distribution from their IRAs once they reach age 70 (the amount of the distribution varies according to the value of the IRA and the age of the owner). In many cases, this required distribution will trigger additional federal income taxes. But thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, you can choose to donate all or part of your 2007 required distribution (up to \$100,000) directly to FAIR. By doing so, you will avoid increasing your taxable income while making a significant investment in our nation's future.

If you are eligible to take advantage of this extraordinary tax incentive, I hope you will consider directing your IRA administrator to transfer some or all of your required distribution to FAIR. (Forms for effecting the transfer are available from FAIR; contact Marjorie Wilkinson at 202/328-7004 or by e-mail at [margie@fairus.org](mailto:margie@fairus.org).)

# Seven Reasons Why the McCain-Kennedy Guest Worker Amnesty is NOT a Done Deal

With both houses of Congress now in Democratic hands and the White House controlled by the pro-guest worker amnesty Bush Administration, many pundits have concluded that passage of legislation along the lines of the McCain-Kennedy bill is a foregone conclusion. It is not.

Advocates for true comprehensive immigration reform must not delude themselves: we have a very difficult fight ahead of us. But we also must not delude ourselves and believe that we are powerless to prevent enactment of a guest worker amnesty proposal. The following is FAIR's analysis explaining why, in spite of the new political reality in Washington, McCain-Kennedy can be stopped:

**1. The Democrats are not unified on amnesty.** There is no doubt that the new Democratic congressional leadership is ideologically in favor of granting amnesty to illegal aliens. However, even in the last Congress, there were prominent Democrats in both the House and the Senate who were firmly opposed to amnesty. Many of the new Democrats who were elected in 2006 also ran on pro-enforcement, anti-amnesty platforms.

**2. The Democrats understand amnesty is unpopular with the voters.** The ideological side of the Democratic leadership is tempered by the politically pragmatic side. After 12 years in the minority, the Democratic leadership understands that they were returned to power only because the voters lost confidence in the Republicans. A massive illegal alien amnesty and a middle class-killing guest worker program is not the kind of "achievement" the new Democratic majority necessarily wants to bring home to the voters.

**3. Guest workers could be a deal-killer for many Democrats.** For President Bush and the business coalition, easy access to foreign guest workers is the crown jewel of any immigration legislation. For many leading Democrats, especially those with close ties to organized labor, expanded guest worker programs are anathema. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) has called the guest worker proposal, "The closest thing I've seen to slavery."

**4. The illegal alien advocacy network may overplay its hand.** The pro-amnesty groups are planning another round of street protests that proved to be so offensive to the vast majority of Americans last year. They are also staking out a position that McCain-Kennedy does not go far enough to satisfy their interests. In a memo circulated to the pro-amnesty coalition, Judith Golub, director of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, described S. 2611 as "not good enough" and "should be opposed on its merits."

**5. Rhetoric does not equal commitment.** The Democrats may be more interested in blaming the White House and congressional Republicans for a legislative stalemate than they are in passing legislation. At the very first Senate hearing, Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), told administration officials to deliver a message: "We are going to need very public support" from President Bush. In other words, the Democrats don't want to take the heat for this unpopular idea.

**6. The Republicans have been liberated.** In 2006, many congressional Republicans felt pressured to go along with the White House on immigration. After the sound thrashing the Republicans took in the 2006 elections, most Republican lawmakers see President Bush as a political liability. Already, prominent Republican supporters of S.2611, including presidential hopeful Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), have announced that they are reconsidering their positions, while former Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) is publicly complaining about being cut out of the deliberation process.

**7. The 2008 elections are underway.** Supporters of guest worker amnesty admit that their window of opportunity is a very narrow one and if it doesn't get done by the summer, it is not likely to happen at all in this Congress. Tellingly, while the Judiciary Committee was holding the first hearing on his bill, John McCain was in New York declaring his candidacy on the David Letterman show.