



**FAIR** THE FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM PRESENTS  
**An Immigration Reform Agenda  
for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress**





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## The Federation for American Immigration Reform

FAIR is the nation's oldest and largest public interest organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to better serve the needs of current and future generations. Founded in 1979, FAIR works for policies that put the interests of Americans and our environment ahead of big business and special interest demands. For 35 years, we have offered and advocated for solutions that help reduce the harmful impact of uncontrolled immigration on the economy, national security, health care, education, the environment, and the rule of law.

With the help of Americans across the country, we have been very successful in our efforts to secure immigration policies that protect our quality of life and stop those that do not. FAIR presents the facts and offers Americans the opportunity to get involved and shape the outcome of this debate.

FAIR has always fought against invidious discrimination of any kind. Our membership is non-partisan and diverse, representing people from all communities, political persuasions, and socioeconomic levels. FAIR has more than 250,000 members and activists nationwide.

FAIR is a highly respected voice and a reliable source of information on the issue of immigration. Academics, lawmakers, and other officials who help formulate immigration policy regularly rely on FAIR's expertise, research, and counsel. We testify regularly before Congress on immigration-related legislation. In addition, representatives of our organization are routinely interviewed by the major news networks, radio talk shows, and the print media about all aspects of the immigration debate.

Over the years, FAIR has played a significant role in virtually all major immigration policy changes. We fought for policy improvements in the landmark 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act and have been instrumental in fashioning legislative and policy reforms since that time. In all we do, FAIR's goal is to educate and increase public awareness of immigration issues, present solutions, and ensure the public's voice is heard.

FAIR presents this Immigration Reform Agenda for the 114th Congress as a guide for ending illegal immigration, reducing legal immigration to a more sustainable level, and improving national security—thereby lifting the burden on the American taxpayer and improving our quality of life.

We look forward to working with you through the 114th Congress.

## Introduction

Illegal immigration and mass immigration are detrimental to the quality of life in the United States. The American family is increasingly bearing the costs of urban sprawl, environmental degradation, traffic congestion, increased crime, overburdened health care, overwhelmed public schools, and debt-ridden state and municipal governments—all results of uncontrolled immigration. The fiscal costs of immigration, legal and illegal, have always been substantial, but with the recent economic downturn, these costs have become even more burdensome. FAIR estimates that the annual cost of illegal immigration alone to the American taxpayer—after accounting for tax revenue received from illegal aliens—is roughly \$113 billion.<sup>1</sup> Congress and the federal government must restore legitimacy to the U.S. immigration system by ensuring that existing immigration laws are enforced and passing new legislation that will curtail legal immigration and improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Unfortunately, over the past two years lawmakers made little progress on immigration, despite the urgent need to do so. As the 113th Congress was sworn in, the U.S. was continuing to dig itself out of the worst recession to hit our nation since the Great Depression. Unemployment had dropped to roughly eight percent, but official data showed that the decrease was largely due to Americans dropping out of the labor market, with the labor force participation rate dropping to under 64 percent.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, data also showed that immigrants benefitted disproportionately from the creation of new jobs.<sup>3</sup>

However, instead of adopting immigration policies that prioritized American workers, the Senate spent much of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress ramming through a mass guest worker amnesty bill (S. 744). Crafted behind closed doors with the amnesty and business lobbies, S. 744—the Gang of Eight bill—would have given amnesty to 12 million illegal aliens, significantly increased legal immigration, and jeopardized national security. With the bill’s passage in doubt, another backroom deal was struck that added kickbacks, carve-outs, and buy-offs that benefitted specific Senators in exchange for their vote. Although the Senate eventually passed S. 744, Majority Leader Harry Reid never sent it to the House of Representatives knowing it would be challenged for unconstitutionally raising revenue.

The House of Representatives also made an attempt to pass “comprehensive” immigration reform. Led by another Gang of Eight, these members spent months crafting a bill similar to S. 744. However, as the public learned more and more about the Senate bill and opposition continued to mount against it, members started dropping out of the group. Eventually, the House Gang of Eight disbanded and they never introduced their mass guest worker amnesty bill.

The House of Representatives did consider several substantive bills in committees but few were sent to the House floor for votes. On the issue of **border security**, the House Homeland Security Committee considered legislation that would have done little to actually secure the border. First, the Border Security Results Act (H.R. 1417) only required the DHS Secretary to develop a border security plan and implement

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1 Martin, Jack and Eric Ruark, “The Fiscal Burden of Illegal Immigration on United States Taxpayers,” FAIR 2010.

2 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, <http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS11300000>

3 Camarota, Steven A. and Karen Zeigler, “All Employment Growth Since 2000 Went to Immigrants,” Center for Immigration Studies, June 2014.

certain metrics. Then, the Biometric Exit Improvement Act (H.R. 3141) actually undermined current law by phasing-in and only requiring partial implementation of the biometric exit system that is already mandated by current law at all air, sea, and land ports-of-entry.

Additionally, the 113th Congress failed to pass legislation to address the surge of unaccompanied alien minors crossing the border unlawfully in 2014. Right before the August recess, the House passed H.R. 5230, an emergency border supplemental bill that also included language to revise the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act so all unaccompanied minors have the same removal process. On the other hand, the Senate voted on a bill that simply funded the current, broken system. However, once that bill failed, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid refused to allow a vote on H.R. 5230 in an attempt to shield his members ahead of the 2014 elections.

Regarding **worksite and interior enforcement**, in 2013 the House Judiciary Committee marked up two bills. First, the committee considered Rep. Lamar Smith's Legal Workforce Act (H.R. 1772) which established mandatory E-Verify, eliminated the current paper-based I-9 system, and preempted state and local E-Verify laws. Then, the committee took up Rep. Trey Gowdy's Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement (SAFE) Act (H.R. 2278) which enhanced interior enforcement and strengthened national security. Although both bills passed out of committee, neither reached the House floor.

Regarding **legal immigration**, the 113th Congress ignored the systemic problems in U.S. immigration law and took up only narrow measures. One bill the House Judiciary Committee marked up and passed was H.R. 2131, the SKILLS Visa Act. The bill—favored by the tech industry—eliminated the visa lottery and made those 55,000 green cards available to foreign nationals who graduate from U.S. universities with Master's or Doctoral degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). H.R. 2131 also prioritized employment-based green cards over family-based and significantly increased the number of H-1B temporary visas that are often used by the tech industry to import workers. Then, the House Judiciary Committee marked up and passed H.R. 1773, the Agricultural Guestworker Act. Introduced by Chairman Bob Goodlatte, the bill was advertised as creating a workable temporary agricultural guest worker program. However, H.R. 1773 was actually a massive amnesty for workers in agriculture and other industries.

Not only did the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress fail to address legal immigration, it also failed to protect the American taxpayers from subsidizing illegal immigration through our tax laws. One of the major culprits is the Additional Child Tax Credit, which, according to government reports, gives illegal aliens approximately \$4.2 billion annually. Illegal aliens obtain these funds because the law allows individuals to claim it with only an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), which the IRS gives out freely to illegal aliens. The House included a provision in the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act (H.R. 4935) that barred the use of ITINs to claim the credit, instead requiring the use of a Social Security Number. However, the Senate refused to consider the legislation and the provision did not become law.

Meanwhile, the White House continued dismantling immigration enforcement by making sweeping administrative changes to immigration policy. First, in a one page memo, President Obama declared that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries are now eligible to enlist in the military

through a program called MAVNI: Military Accessions Vital to National Interest. Next, the Obama Administration created a new program—again through a memo—that exploits humanitarian parole to allow Haitians who have applied for a family-based green card to enter the U.S. before actually receiving it. Similarly, the president created a sweeping new program that exploits refugee and parole laws to allow children and adults from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador into the U.S. permanently.

Then, in the aftermath of the 2014 elections where voters rejected President Obama’s policies—including immigration—and handed control of the Senate to Republicans, President Obama took sweeping executive action. Through 10 memos issued by DHS, called the Johnson Memos, the President rewards approximately 5 million illegal aliens with deferral from deportation and work authorization, while shielding almost all other illegal aliens from enforcement by directing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to ignore illegal aliens unless they meet very narrow criteria.

Additionally, the Johnson Memos essentially gut interior enforcement and cooperation with state and local law enforcement. First, the Johnson Memos terminate the Secure Communities Program, a program that was responsible for identifying tens of thousands of criminal aliens for removal. Second, the Johnson Memos direct ICE to stop issuing detainers—a request made by immigration agents to state and local jails to hold criminal aliens for 48 hours to allow federal agents to assume custody of the alien—in most instances.

While Republicans and Democrats decried the President’s actions, Congress failed to defund his executive amnesty as part of the FY2015 appropriations bill debated in the final days of the 113th Congress. Instead, Congress funded DHS through February (at current levels) and funded the rest of the government for all of FY2015. In the opening days of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House responded by passing a DHS appropriations bill that defunds most of President Obama’s executive amnesties. However, the bill stalled in the Senate as all Senate Democrats unanimously voted to block even debating the bill. As the funding deadline approached, House Speaker John Boehner struck a deal with Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and used Democratic votes to pass a full Homeland Security funding bill that does not defund the executive amnesty.

These actions, plus all those summarized above, set the stage for the 114th Congress to act. We hope FAIR’s Legislative Agenda for the 114th Congress will provide lawmakers with a roadmap for reform.

Within FAIR’s Legislative Agenda, there are four major areas of true immigration reform: illegal immigration reform, national security reform, reining in executive abuse, and legal immigration reform. These reforms often overlap and many of the suggested policy solutions for one area will address the other areas of reform. These recommendations are by no means exhaustive, but do represent reforms FAIR considers to be top priorities and the most effective solutions for solving the immigration crisis in the United States.

## Illegal Immigration Reform

The illegal alien population in the U.S., estimated at 12 million, is comprised of those who either illegally cross the borders or overstay their visas. As this number has expanded over the past few decades, the immigration reform debate has understandably become centered on stopping illegal immigration.

Securing the borders, implementing a proper entry-exit system for visa holders, and denying jobs to illegal aliens are key components to ending illegal immigration. In addition to opposing all efforts to grant amnesty to illegal aliens, the 114th Congress should seek to end illegal immigration by implementing the reforms outlined in the following areas.

### WORKSITE AND INTERIOR ENFORCEMENT

There is an overwhelming consensus that most illegal aliens come to the U.S. for economic reasons, which makes worksite and interior enforcement programs a vital step toward true immigration reform. Recently, ICE has abandoned traditional worksite enforcement actions and refused to deport illegal workers. Indeed, the Obama Administration has essentially stopped deporting illegal aliens once they reach the interior of the country. ICE must renew and expand worksite and interior enforcement operations in order to guarantee a legal workforce, protect American workers, and restore the rule of law. To help ensure this, Congress should:

- Permanently authorize the E-Verify program and provide adequate funding to guarantee the future of the program
- Make the E-Verify program mandatory for all existing and new hires
- Bar illegal aliens from receiving work authorization
- Eliminate the discretion of DHS to grant work authorization to illegal aliens
- Support ICE worksite enforcement operations with more agents
- Increase funding to allow for more detention beds
- Permit U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to file complaints for unfair employment practices under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
- Permit civil actions by employers against other employers who intentionally fail to verify work eligibility of their employees
- Increase and consistently apply civil and criminal penalties against employers of illegal aliens
- Prohibit employers from deducting wages paid to illegal workers
- Reinstate or codify the Social Security Administration's "no-match" rule
- Require Homeland Security to issue detainers for aliens in the custody of state and local officials
- Require DHS to operate and maintain Secure Communities

### ENSURE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS ARE SECURE

Document fraud is one of the primary ways illegal aliens manipulate the system to stay in the U.S. and gain employment. Fraudulent birth certificates, driver's licenses, and immigration documents enable illegal aliens to obtain employment and, in some instances, claim benefits for which they would otherwise be ineligible. Hundreds of thousands of fraudulent or stolen Social Security numbers (SSN) are submitted to the Social Security Administration (SSA) each year, which severely impacts the lives of the U.S. citizens

and legal aliens whose numbers are stolen. To create secure and tamper proof identification documents, FAIR advocates the following measures:

- Secure the Social Security card by making it counterfeit proof and tamper-resistant
- Appropriate sufficient funds and enforce state deadlines for the implementation of REAL ID
- Encourage states to require proof of lawful status for the issuance of driver's licenses by denying federal transportation dollars to states that fail to do so
- Authorize and fund increased training for federal, state, and local law enforcement officers on the detection of fraudulent documents
- Bar the use of matricula consular cards for purposes of establishing identity, especially for illegal aliens opening bank accounts and applying for access to government benefits
- Bar local governments from issuing identification documents to illegal aliens, including DACA/DAPA recipients and illegal aliens who have deferred action or parole.

#### SUPPORT STATE AND LOCAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

State and local law enforcement and government agencies play a crucial role in ending illegal immigration. Thus, it is important they have the proper support from the federal government to arrest, detain, and transfer illegal aliens to federal custody. To improve the enforcement of immigration laws at the state and local level, FAIR advocates the following measures:

- Reverse the Obama Administration's elimination of Secure Communities and the restrictions placed on the 287(g) program that limit its use.
- Expressly require that DHS operate the Secure Communities and 287(g) programs. Ensure adequate funding and training for all local law enforcement agencies that want to participate in the program
- Clarify that state and local law enforcement officers may enforce federal immigration laws
- Fully reimburse state and local law enforcement expenses directly related to illegal immigration
- Deny certain federal funds to cities that have sanctuary policies, which include jurisdictions that:
  - Have official policies or laws that prohibit the collection of immigration data
  - Have official policies or laws that prohibit officials from honoring detainers issued by ICE
- Amend the INA to clarify that Congress has not preempted local immigration enforcement laws and address other issues raised by the Supreme Court ruling in *Arizona v. United States*, 132 S. Ct. 2492 (2012).

#### FEDERAL AGENCY REFORM

The federal agencies responsible for overseeing immigration programs and enforcement efforts do not have sufficient authorization or resources to share information and cooperate with each other, which substantially hinders their ability to perform their respective tasks. To improve their effectiveness, FAIR advocates the following reforms:

- Require the SSA to share information with DHS on issuance of no-match letters to employers and suspicious employment use of legitimate SSNs
- Restrict use of ITINs to tax-related purposes only. Prohibit the use of ITINs to apply for the Additional Child Tax Credit
- Require the IRS to investigate and sanction employers and aliens who submit fraudulent tax documents
- Prohibit employers from deducting wages and benefits paid to illegal aliens from their taxes
- Prohibit the SSA from crediting work performed by illegal aliens towards Social Security benefits,

regardless of future changes in the aliens' immigration status

- Increase the number of immigration judges employed by the Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Increase the number of asylum officers employed by DHS and set standards for training that specifically include identity fraud

#### OPPOSE EFFORTS TO GIVE BENEFITS TO ILLEGAL ALIENS

Granting benefits to illegal aliens does nothing more than use taxpayer dollars to reward illegal behavior and encourage more illegal immigration. With the exception of emergency medical care, illegal aliens are ineligible for most federally administered benefits. However, by granting large classes of illegal aliens deferred action and parole the Obama Administration has exploited a loophole to make those illegal aliens eligible for taxpayer-funded benefits. In addition, many states have not adopted similar provisions barring illegal aliens from state and local benefits. The 114th Congress should clarify that only aliens with lawful status may be eligible for benefits and refuse to allow federal taxpayer dollars to subsidize state and local policies that encourage illegal immigration.

To limit taxpayer-funded benefits to illegal aliens, FAIR advocates enacting the following measures:

- Support efforts to eliminate sanctuary cities by withholding certain federal funds from localities that adopt such policies or practices
- Bar illegal aliens with deferred action and parole from eligibility for Social Security, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, and other federal benefits programs
- Revise federal law to clarify that states may not, under any circumstances, offer in-state tuition to illegal aliens. Deny certain federal funds to states that pass measures in violation of such federal law
- Help lawmakers better understand the impact of illegal immigration by requiring schools and hospitals to collect non-identifiable data regarding the immigration status of students and patients. Deny certain federal funds to institutions that do not comply
- Require employers to reimburse states and local governments for education, healthcare, and other services used by the legal temporary workers they employ or sponsor
- Oppose “pathways to citizenship,” temporary or permanent visas, or other forms of amnesty for illegal aliens

### National Security Reform

The ability of the 9/11 hijackers to enter and remain in the U.S. undetected underscores that immigration law — the regulation of who enters our country, under what conditions, and for what length of time — is an integral aspect of national security policy. The events of 9/11 affirmed what FAIR had been warning for years: the U.S. will not be secure from terrorist attacks unless federal law enforcement agents are able to quickly and accurately ascertain which aliens are in the country legally. The threat to national security from foreign nationals has only increased as drug cartels along the U.S.-Mexico border have become more and more violent, and as a result, have expanded their monopoly on the smuggling of goods and people over our Southern border. Therefore, it is imperative that the 114th Congress work with law enforcement agencies to develop and implement the infrastructure and technology that will further secure U.S. borders along with new methods for screening and admitting aliens to the country.

## SECURE THE BORDERS AND PORTS OF ENTRY

A fundamental step to solving our illegal immigration problem and ensuring our national security is to secure the borders and ports of entry. While the exact number varies, the Border Patrol still apprehends hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens annually and the problem of gang violence and drug and weapon trafficking continues to plague the Southern border in particular. Until sufficient resources, infrastructure, and manpower are placed at the border, these problems will persist. FAIR advocates the following border security measures:

- Appropriate sufficient funds for border security efforts
- Dispatch additional National Guard troops to assist in border security efforts and supplement the work of the Border Patrol
- Complete a double-layered fence on the Southern border
- Increase the number of Border Patrol agents
- Provide resources to border states and local law enforcement to address border-related issues
- Increase manpower at all ports of entry to provide for thorough screening of all entrants
- Significantly increase detention space to prevent de-facto catch-and-release policies
- Amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act to allow all unaccompanied alien minors to be quickly returned to their home countries

## IMPLEMENT A SECURE AND EFFICIENT ADMISSION AND REMOVAL PROCESS

Despite advances in obtaining, checking, and retaining biometric and other information on arriving foreign travelers, the U.S. still does not have a comprehensive, functioning biometric entry-exit system. Moreover, the process for admissions and removals is inefficient and contains many loopholes, including wide judicial discretion. To help create a secure admissions and removal system, FAIR advocates the following measures:

- Fully implement the comprehensive entry-exit system, including the biometric exit component, known as the Office of Biometric Identity Management (formerly US-VISIT)
- Prohibit DHS from granting immigration benefits until all background checks of applicants are completed to the satisfaction of DHS
- Repeal the Visa Waiver Program
- Require all immigrant visa applicants to go through complete background checks
- Require the State Department to enforce the law that requires them to deny visas to nationals of countries that refuse to repatriate their citizens
- Streamline processes for immigration litigation, including increasing the number of immigration judges
- Restrict Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to aliens legally present in the U.S. when the event occurs that leads to the requested temporary protection
- Reform the TPS, asylum, and refugee programs to prohibit granting such status to gang members
- Authorize the continued detention of dangerous aliens
- Implement biometric screening for all aliens at all ports of entry

## REINING IN EXECUTIVE ABUSE

Since 2009, the Obama administration has systematically gutted effective immigration enforcement policies and stretched the concept of “prosecutorial discretion” to a point where it has rendered many

immigration laws meaningless. In 2011, President Obama exempted most illegal aliens from the threat of removal through ICE policy memos—known as the Morton Memos after then-ICE Director John Morton—that created new enforcement priorities and encouraged ICE agents to not enforce the law against illegal aliens who do not meet these priorities. In 2012, President Obama circumvented Congress by unilaterally implementing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) amnesty program that grants deferred action and work authorization to illegal aliens who would qualify for the DREAM Act—legislation Congress has repeatedly rejected. Then, after the 2014 elections when voters overwhelmingly rejected President Obama’s immigration agenda, President Obama took sweeping executive action through 10 policy memoranda issued by DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson. Combined, they grant deferred action and work authorization to approximately 5 million illegal aliens, exempt nearly all other illegal aliens from removal, and further dismantle interior enforcement. To rein in executive abuse, FAIR advocates the following measures:

- Significantly limit the use of deferred action, parole and other forms of “prosecutorial discretion”
- Defund all of the President’s executive amnesty programs, including DACA and DAPA
- Require DHS to issue detainers for criminal aliens; deny federal dollars to jurisdictions that prohibit officials from honoring detainers or cooperating with ICE.
- Amend the INA to clarify that only aliens with legal status—not legal presence—qualify for work authorization

## Legal Immigration Reform

The population of the U.S. has dramatically increased over the past few decades, accompanied by rises in food and other commodity prices and shortages of natural resources such as clean air and water. This problem will only get worse as the U.S. Census Bureau projects that the U.S. will add another 77 million more people by 2050.<sup>4</sup> This rapid population growth is integrally connected to our immigration policies; the Pew Hispanic Center estimates that 82 percent of U.S. population growth is due to immigration.<sup>5</sup> Thus, if Congress does not fundamentally change U.S. immigration policies, the U.S. will continue on this trajectory of unsustainable population growth.

These drastic population increases not only impact the environment, they affect the quality of life for every American and raise serious concerns about the capacity of our school systems, physical infrastructure, state budgets, and health care system. Fortunately, it is not too late to curb population growth and prevent irreparable damage. To help stem population growth, the 114th Congress should limit guest worker programs, end the chain migration policies that give preferential treatment to extended family members, and categorically oppose efforts to give amnesty to illegal aliens.

### CUT THE NUMBERS

The U.S. currently admits over one million legal permanent residents (green card holders) every year—the equivalent of adding a city the size of Dallas, Texas annually.<sup>6</sup> Because unregulated immigration has such a significant impact on our lives, experts have long urged the federal government to adopt reasonable

4 U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html>, Table 2.

5 PEW Hispanic Center, February 11, 2008, <http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=85>

6 “U.S. Legal Permanent Residents,” Annual Flow Report, Department of Homeland Security, April 2010.

limits on immigration. In 1981, the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy (SCIRP) concluded that immigration to the U.S. was “out of control” and recommended to Congress that it pursue a “cautious approach” that recognizes “the reality of limitations.”<sup>7</sup>

In the mid-1990s the Clinton Administration established the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, headed by the well-known civil rights advocate, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan (D-Tex.). In a series of reports,<sup>8</sup> the Jordan Commission also recommended that the federal government:

- Reduce legal immigration and implement an overall annual cap of 550,000;
- Prioritize skilled workers over unskilled workers; and
- Prioritize nuclear family members over extended family members.

FAIR believes that a sustainable level of immigration is no more than 300,000 annually. To cut the numbers while allowing for the maintenance of nuclear families, FAIR advocates the following measures:

- Eliminate birthright citizenship legislatively
- Repeal the visa lottery
- Grant immigrant visas to skilled workers over unskilled workers
- Restrict family preference visas to nuclear family members (spouse and minor children)
- Oppose any efforts to reauthorize INA § 245(i)

#### STOP LEGAL IMMIGRATION FRAUD

The U.S. has a rich history of immigration that is unfortunately undermined by high levels of fraud within the refugee, asylum, and visa systems. The U.S. must maintain the credibility of its immigration laws by exercising greater scrutiny over the admissions process and ensuring that the asylum/refugee programs serve the population for which they were intended. To restore integrity to the immigration system, FAIR recommends the following measures:

- Impose stricter standards for the admission of guest workers
- Reform or eliminate immigration programs with notably high rates of fraud (i.e. TPS and asylum, H-1B visas, EB-5, religious worker visa program, etc.)

#### PROTECT THE AMERICAN WORKER

U.S. immigration laws already contain a multitude of guest worker programs, including programs for unskilled workers, agricultural workers, high-tech workers, and nurses. Given the current economic situation, the 114th Congress should take special care to protect the American worker by restricting the amount of cheap foreign labor that is allowed to compete with U.S. workers. To ensure a legal workforce, FAIR advocates the following measures:

- Require that U.S. workers be given absolute preference in hiring and during lay-offs
- Oppose all efforts to expand guest worker programs
- Reform existing guest worker programs by eliminating fraud, cutting the numbers to a level that reflects the true need for labor, and opposing new programs

<sup>7</sup> Vernon Briggs, Testimony Before the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, February 23, 1995, located at <http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1014&context=briggstestimonies>.

<sup>8</sup> The Jordan Commission Reports to Congress, <http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/uscir/reports.html>.

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FAIR, the Federation for American Immigration Reform 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 nonpartisan 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.

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