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## **FAIR Members Help to Derail Senate Amnesty Efforts**

### *Massive Public Opinion Scuttles Senate Plans to Enact Illegal Alien Amnesty*

In a major victory for the immigration reform movement and the American people, Senate efforts to pass a sweeping amnesty for the estimated 12 million illegal aliens living in the U.S. were defeated before the Easter recess. Two amnesty bills failed to reach the floor of the Senate for an up or down vote, as senatorial offices were flooded with phone calls and emails from outraged constituents, and as members of the public burned up the airwaves on radio talk shows across the country vehemently expressing their opposition to what would have amounted to a fire sale on U.S. citizenship.

The first bill, hammered out in the Senate Judiciary Committee in late March, would have granted outright amnesty to nearly all of the 12 million people living in the country illegally. The legislation, which incorporated provisions of the McCain-Kennedy bill and Chairman Arlen Specter's bill, would have put illegal aliens on a path to U.S. citizenship and flooded the country with hundreds of thousands of new "guest workers" each year who would also have been allowed to remain in the country permanently. The McCain-Kennedy-Specter amnesty also had the backing of the Bush Administration.

Fierce public opposition, and heroic senators of both parties who were willing to stand up to special interest pressure, blocked the bill from being voted on by the full Senate. With the threat of a filibuster looming, supporters of amnesty recognized that they did not have the votes necessary to invoke cloture, or limit debate, and bring the bill to a vote, and gave up on the bill.

Unbowed, the proponents of a citizenship giveaway quickly came up with another scheme to slip amnesty past the public. Less than 24 hours after the defeat of McCain-Kennedy-Specter, Senate leaders announced that they had reached a "major breakthrough" on a "compromise" amendment. At a Capitol Hill news conference Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), flanked by many members of both parties, announced that they had unified behind an amendment offered by Senators Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) and Mel Martinez (R-Fla.).

As it turned out, the Hagel-Martinez substitute was no less of an amnesty than the bill that had just been rejected, but was manifestly more dishonest. Hagel-Martinez concocted a hare-brained scheme that would have allowed all illegal aliens who had been in the country for more than five years to gain amnesty without having to first return to their country of origin. Illegal aliens who had been in the country between two and five years would have to either return to their home country and apply for immediate "guest worker" status, or go to a designated border station and apply for work authorization and immediately return to this country. They, too, would be put on a path to citizenship. Illegal aliens who had been here for less than two years would have been required to leave the country or be subject to deportation, although there was nothing in the Hagel-Martinez amendment that indicated how this would be enforced.

Proponents of the Hagel-Martinez "breakthrough" could not say how they would prevent those who did not meet the five-year cutoff from simply producing easily forged documents to demonstrate that they had been in the country for the required period. When questioned about the obvious invitation to massive fraud, Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, replied, "The devil is in the details."

The Senate leadership soon discovered that this deceitful substitute amnesty bill was no more acceptable to the American public than the one that they had to scrap a day earlier. FAIR quickly informed its network of activists and the media of the backdoor amnesty plan afoot in Washington. Activists responded and kept up the pressure on their Senators to reject the blatantly deceitful Hagel-Martinez proposal, while the media widely reported the unworkability of this supposed compromise.

Exposed for what it actually was — a fraud-ridden amnesty scheme — the Senate once again failed to invoke cloture on the Hagel-Martinez proposal on April 7. Dozens of senators on both sides of the aisle were preparing to offer hundreds of amendments to the “compromise” bill, leading Senate leaders to realize that they had reached an impasse.

The defeat of the Bush amnesty in the Senate is testament to the impact of citizen awareness and participation. With the White House and senior members of both parties pulling out all the stops in an effort to enact an illegal alien amnesty, the voice of the people managed to prevail. FAIR is proud of the key role that we were able to play in raising public awareness through networks of activists and through our carefully cultivated relationships with media around the country. We are also aware of the important role that our members play, both through your support of this organization and your response to calls for action.

FAIR is also determined not to rest until both houses of Congress pass meaningful immigration enforcement bills. Defeating the Bush amnesty in the Senate was an important victory in a key battle, but we have not won the war. Not rewarding millions of illegal aliens should not be confused with responding to the will of the American people. Over the remaining months of this session of Congress, FAIR will continue to press both houses of Congress to address the urgent need to control this nation’s borders, protect American jobs, and alleviate the enormous burdens that mass illegal immigration is imposing on the citizens of this country.

Let’s all take a moment to celebrate what we have accomplished together and then let’s get back to the work of crafting true comprehensive immigration reform that serves the interests of the American people!

# Millions of Illegal Aliens Take to the Streets Demanding “Rights” and Amnesty While the Government Refuses to Act

All across the United States, millions of illegal aliens and their supporters took to the streets in March and April to pressure Congress to approve a massive new amnesty program. An estimated half a million people turned out in Los Angeles for the biggest demonstration on March 25, while many other cities witnessed similar rallies timed to coincide with the Senate’s consideration of amnesty legislation. A second round of illegal alien protests occurred on April 10, just days after the Senate recessed having failed to approve any immigration legislation at all.

Marchers from coast to coast paraded through the streets of American cities carrying Mexican and other Latin American flags, demanding an assortment of “rights,” including full U.S. citizenship. Noticeably absent from most of the early illegal alien protest rallies were American flags, and when they were evident, they were often carried upside down — a symbol of disrespect. Many protesters carried signs in Spanish and English proclaiming their “rights” to be in this country and enjoy all the benefits of America, while others declared the United States itself is stolen land that they are reclaiming. However, largely overlooked by the media, was the reaction of American citizens of Hispanic descent, a large percentage of whom are opposed to amnesty and were offended by the displays of Mexican flags and the absence of or disrespect for American flags.

At the urging of radical organizations and Spanish language radio personalities, many students walked out of schools in support of an illegal alien amnesty. In some places, these student walkouts were encouraged and supported by teachers and school administrators. Students in Montgomery County, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C., were actually given public service credits for attending the pro-illegal alien amnesty rally in the nation’s capital.

While the size of the illegal alien rallies was impressive, they served to galvanize public opinion in opposition to amnesty, as law-abiding Americans were offended by the sight of illegal aliens demanding rights in the U.S. while waving foreign flags. Organizers of the second round of protests, which took place after the Senate stalemated on an amnesty bill, implored the people who were demanding to be rewarded for breaking the law to include more American flags at their rallies. This second round of protests included many prominent congressional leaders including Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton at a New York rally, and Senator Edward Kennedy at the rally on the national mall in Washington.

Conspicuous by their absence, as millions of illegal aliens publicly proclaimed that they were breaking the law, were any signs of people who are paid by the taxpayers to enforce our immigration laws. Over several weeks, as illegal alien protests occurred all across the country, there was not a single report of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency making an arrest.

The illegal alien protests also provided evidence of the deep social divisions in American society that FAIR and others have repeatedly warned would occur if we did not set reasonable limits on immigration and end mass illegal immigration. America is clearly failing to assimilate large numbers of immigrants into the mainstream of society. Millions of people who are living in this country do not identify with this nation and see it as nothing more than a place where they can earn more money and receive better social services than in their homelands.

The sight of millions of illegal immigrants and U.S.-born citizen children marching under Mexican flags and asserting their identities as something other than American is very troubling and should be seen as a wake-up call to the political leadership of this country. The United States could well face a situation similar to what has been taking place in France and other parts of Europe, where the children of the last generation of immigrants not only do not identify with the societies in which they live, but are openly hostile to them.

## **FAIR Estimates Amnesty Would Cost State and Local Governments \$61.5 Billion a Year by 2010**

A massive illegal alien amnesty being promoted by President Bush and members of the Senate is not just wrong, it would be prohibitively expensive, finds an analysis done by FAIR. Currently, state and local governments spend about \$36 billion a year to provide education and health care to illegal aliens and their families, and for the incarceration of illegal aliens who commit crimes in this country.

While the Senate, by the admission of many who are backing an illegal alien amnesty, has not assessed the potential costs of such a program, FAIR has. FAIR projects that as a result of legalizing 12 million illegal aliens estimated to be in the country, state and local costs would balloon to \$61.5 billion a year by 2010 and would continue to escalate to \$106.3 billion by 2020.

Contrary to claims by proponents of amnesty, the tax contributions of newly legalized illegal aliens would not offset the additional costs. The estimated 12 million illegal aliens in the U.S. are overwhelmingly poorly educated and low-skilled. Even with legalization, their earning potential would be very limited. With the ability to legitimately claim dependents on their returns, their tax contributions would be negligible at best, and with programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, many will actually get more back than they pay in.

Most of the services that will be required by amnestied illegal aliens and family members who would be allowed to join them are provided by state and local governments. Communities that are hard-pressed to deal with school overcrowding, overwhelmed public health facilities and other crises would face even tougher challenges should a massive guest worker amnesty program be enacted.

You can read FAIR's analysis of the local costs of an illegal alien guest worker amnesty program and see how it would affect your state [here](#).

## Union Members Rebuke Labor Leaders and McCain Over Amnesty and Guest Workers

The broad political coalition organized to show support for a massive illegal alien guest worker amnesty program may be little more than a façade. Leaders of the nation's largest labor unions eagerly jumped on board the amnesty express, but it seems they forgot to ask their membership if they wanted to go along for the ride.

Addressing a meeting of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades membership, Senator John McCain caught heat from working Americans for his support of amnesty and expansion of guest worker programs. At points in the event, the Arizona Republican threatened to cut short his speech to the union when his views on immigration policy were booed by union members.

Standing before a room of working men and women, McCain unsuccessfully tried to sell the idea that guest workers are necessary to do jobs that Americans won't do. Unlike the Washington press corps, which often accepts such statements from McCain, President Bush and others at face value, workers at the meeting responded, "Pay a decent wage!" McCain covered other issues in his speech to the union, but when it came time for questions and answers, the subject quickly returned to the senator's adamant support for amnesty and guest workers.

At one point, in order to prove his point that there are jobs that Americans will not do, McCain offered people in the audience \$50 an hour to pick lettuce. When a worker offered to take him up on his offer, McCain condescendingly declared "You can't do it, my friends" a remark that was interpreted by many to be a questioning of their work ethic.

The testy exchange before the Buildings and Construction Trades membership also highlights the chasm that exists between labor leadership in this country and rank and file workers. Having failed to protect union jobs in this country from outsourcing, or from the mass immigration that has undercut workers, union leaders are now hoping to revitalize the labor movement in America by organizing the very immigrants who have displaced former unionized workers. In doing so, they seem prepared to sell out millions of American working men and women.

Middle class workers, especially those who belong to unions, are the staunchest opponents of the sort of amnesty programs that their union leadership has endorsed and the guest worker programs that President Bush and some congressional leaders want to enact. The alleged support of organized labor for amnesty, as this Washington meeting indicates, does not extend very far beyond union officials and is soundly rejected by the membership.



# **FAIR Seeks Labor Union Support in Guest Worker Amnesty Battle**

## *Local Building Trade Unions Dismayed by AFL-CIO Support for Amnesty*

While Sen. John McCain was booed by members of the Building and Construction Trades Union in Washington, D.C., for his support of a massive illegal alien guest worker amnesty program, Sandra Gunn, FAIR's Eastern Field Representative, received quite the opposite reception from union members in Pittsburgh. She was cheered. The AFL-CIO leadership has come out in support of an amnesty proposal, but the contrasting receptions for Sen. McCain and FAIR from rank-and-file union members indicates the top brass is out of step and out of touch with the concerns of work-ers on this issue.

In April, Sandra was invited to address the Pittsburgh Plumbers Local 27 to speak about why the Senate and Bush Administration's guest worker amnesty efforts are a threat to the livelihoods of American workers. Her message was so well received that she was asked to speak the following day to the Pittsburgh Building and Construction Trades Council meeting, a group that encompasses all local unions in the building and construction trades.

At both meetings, dues-paying members and local union leaders voiced their concern that international leadership is not representing their best interest or serving the national interest by advocating amnesty for 1220 million illegal aliens. These hardworking Americans vowed to voice their discontent "up the ladder" to international leaders who are clearly out of touch with the needs and concerns of their dues-paying members. A recent Pew Hispanic Center study found 14 percent of construction jobs in the U.S. are now being filled by illegal aliens. Local union members say these are jobs that they are fighting to keep, not, as President Bush says, "jobs Americans won't do."

## Book Review

### *America's Unguarded Gates*

Anyone who has not been in a coma for the past several months is aware that the debate about immigration policy in the United States is at a fever pitch. The current round of immigration legislation is front page headlines in the daily newspapers, the lead story on TV news programs and the hottest topic on talk radio.

The debate about immigration to the U.S. is intense, but it is not new. In his book, *Unguarded Gates* (Rowman & Littlefield Publisher, 2004), historian Otis L. Graham, Jr., traces the long history of debate about immigration in the U.S. Graham, a professor of history, emeritus, at the University of California, Santa Barbara, examines in depth the impact that immigration has had on America and the debates that took place at various times in our history.

Beginning with the "Great Wave" of immigration that lasted from the 1880s to the 1920s, Graham analyzes the social, political and economic dynamics that eventually led the country to conclude that mass immigration needed to end. He further traces the factors that contributed to the reopening of the immigration flood gates in the 1960s and 1970s that unleashed an even greater wave of immigration — legal and illegal — to this country.

Many of the same economic arguments being made today in support of open immigration were also present in the debate in the 1920s. Graham notes that some eighty years ago, "Many employers in both manufacturing and agriculture had predicted economic hardship due to labor shortages." These dire predictions turned out to be unfounded. Cheap immigrant labor was replaced by mechanization, which raised productivity by 40 percent in the years following the end of mass immigration, and also resulted in a nascent middle class in America that now threatens to be undone by the latest tide of mass immigration.

*Unguarded Gates* argues that continued mass immigration, over the strenuous objections of the majority of the population, is driven by the concerns and interests of an elite class that is removed from the interests of the nation and ordinary Americans. Unlike the elite of a century ago, this cosmopolitan class does not necessarily see its fortunes rising and falling with those whom they now share little more than geographical proximity.

If history does, in fact, repeat itself, *Unguarded Gates* is a worthwhile read for those who want to understand where the immigration debate in the United States has been and where it might be headed.

## Law-Abiding Citizens Getting in Their Two Cents on Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants . . . Literally

Like millions of people around the country, Teresa Shuff Trujillo of Orange County, California, was outraged at the sight of millions of illegal aliens taking to the street demanding to be rewarded for having broken the law. She was even more appalled when the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate approved legislation that would grant amnesty to people who are breaking our laws, taking American jobs, and draining public resources. And she was incensed when many school districts around the country moved to “diffuse” tensions by banning the American flag on school grounds.

Ordinary Americans, those often labeled as the Silent Majority, do not express their views with massive street demonstrations the way illegal aliens and their supporters do. So Teresa came up with a novel approach to allow the vast majority of Americans, who are vehemently opposed to an illegal alien amnesty, to demonstrate their views to the political leadership of this country. She was determined to get her two cents in, and is asking millions of other Americans to do the same by literally sending two pennies to their elected representatives and to the leaders of the two major political parties. She even established a web site, [www.rainchange.com](http://www.rainchange.com), to share her ideas with people around the country.

Instead of just phone calls or emails, the Rain Change approach seeks to inundate senatorial and congressional offices with millions of pennies, accompanied with a note to the legislators letting them know that their constituents are putting in their two cents on behalf of saving the American worker. Because of heightened security at the U.S. Capitol which delays the delivery of mail, Rain Change urges that people send their two cents to the members of Congress' district offices. FAIR thinks this is a great idea, and urges members to join the campaign to rain change on members of Congress and the Democratic and Republican national committees.

## Around the Country

While the White House and the Senate remain an impediment to immigration enforcement at the federal level, many states are not waiting around for Washington to act. Increasingly, state governments are passing their own laws aimed at sending a message that people who are violating immigration laws will not be rewarded.

### Georgia

Georgia is one of the real successes of FAIR's effort to create local networks of immigration reformers. Those efforts and the hard work of locally-based activists paid off in late March when the Georgia House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed immigration enforcement measures that had already been approved by the State Senate. The bill that came over from the State Senate, SB 529, authored by Sen. Chip Rogers, limits illegal aliens' access to public benefits and services, and allows the state to punish employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. The bill cleared the state House with bipartisan support by a 12351 margin.

### Tennessee

Bills introduced by both Democratic and Republican members of the Tennessee legislature, in response to constituent pressure, would deny non-essential benefits and services to illegal aliens and crack down on employers who hire them. These get-tough bills are a sharp departure from policies adopted by the state just a few years ago that permitted illegal aliens to receive driver's licenses. The Senate also approved immigration law enforcement training for members of the Highway Patrol. FAIR has worked hard in Tennessee to help local activists build an immigration reform network. Grassroots groups like Tennesseans for Responsible Immigration Policies (TnRIP), [www.tnrip.org](http://www.tnrip.org), have been active in helping to change the stances of many local elected officials.

### New Hampshire

The New Hampshire State Senate approved legislation in late March that would require employers who hire foreign workers to register with the state and be subject to surprise inspection by state labor enforcement officers. Employers who are caught hiring illegal aliens could be subject to state imposed fines and the workers would be turned over to federal immigration authorities. The Senate also approved a measure that would allow New Hampshire state police to receive immigration enforcement training. The bill must now be acted on by the state House.

### California

The Orange County city of Costa Mesa, which once accommodated illegal aliens with day labor hiring sites, continues to demonstrate that local action can be effective at controlling illegal immigration. Responding to growing public pressure to deal with the city's illegal immigration crisis, Mayor Alan Mansoor will have 30 or more members of the local police department receive federal training in immigration enforcement.

### Arizona

While illegal aliens protesting the proposed enforcement of U.S. immigration laws were the focus of media attention, American citizens renewed their commitment to immigration enforcement by heading to the Arizona-Mexico border as part of the Minuteman Project. In addition to monitoring a border that is increasingly out of control as a result of the call for an illegal alien amnesty, the people who participated in these civilian patrols were there to demonstrate their support for real immigration enforcement, including the construction of a border fence. Representing FAIR at the April 1 kick-off of the Minuteman effort were Dale McGlothlin and Rick Oltman.

# From the Hill

## *"Guest Worker Impasse Stalls Border Security"*

by Sen. Ben Nelson

Last September, I proposed to change Washington's approach to illegal immigration by shifting the focus to border security first. I introduced a comprehensive border security first bill, with bipartisan support, that increases border patrol agents, adds detention facilities, cracks down on employers who break the law and constructs a border barrier like the one that is working in San Diego.

Since last fall, I've feared that Congress would get tangled in an all-encompassing bill that would ultimately fail and leave our borders unsecured. That's why I made "Border Security First" my mantra. Everyone agrees that we need to secure our borders but some in Congress have become focused on "do everything" bills that have gone nowhere and done nothing to solve the ongoing illegal immigration problem.

Seven months later, the debate about illegal immigration is stalled over disagreements regarding guest worker programs and other amnesty-related proposals and our borders remain unsecured.

When the Senate reconvenes, we should regroup around a tough border security measure that we know we can pass and then turn to the more contentious issues relating to illegal immigrants already here. A bipartisan bill I introduced with my colleague Sen. Sessions offers the comprehensive border security measures we need.

Here are a few of the bill's comprehensive highlights, designed to secure our borders first:

### **Securing the Border**

- Add 8,000 Border Patrol Agents
- Increase use of technology to assist with border surveillance
- Create and control a border zone along the U.S.-Mexico border

### **Enforcing the Laws**

- Add 1,000 personnel to investigate immigrant smuggling
- Add 10,000 worksite enforcement investigators and 5,000 fraud detection agents to crack down on employers who illegally employ immigrants
- Add 1,250 Customs and Border Protection Officers to assist with border control

### **Visa Reform**

- Eliminate the lottery-like Diversity Visa Program that allots 50,000 visas annually with no background check required
- Discontinue visas for immigrants from countries that deny or delay repatriation

### **Helping Employers Identify Illegal Immigrants**

- Create an employment eligibility verification system for employers to verify the legal status of any prospective employee
- Increase the penalties for employers who don't use the verification system or knowingly hire undocumented workers

## **Penalizing Law-Breakers**

- Increase penalties for smugglers
- Enhance penalties for certain crimes committed by illegal immigrants
- Make illegal immigrants participating in criminal street gangs deportable

Securing our borders demands this combination of elements to stop illegal immigrants and smugglers and to enable employers to verify the work eligibility of their employees.

I've not forgotten about the 11 million illegal immigrants already on American soil. But as the latest Senate stalemate proves, this issue's progress depends on taking one step at a time. And the first step is controlling and securing our border.

You may write Senator Ben Nelson, 720 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; or send a fax to his district office, 402-391-3411; or call 402-391-4725.

## Reformer Corner

*Phil Valentine*

Not since the push by Tennessee government to enact an unconstitutional state income tax has an issue so galvanized the people of this state. It's been a growing problem since the late '80s when the federal government usurped the power of the state to enforce its own labor laws. Prior to the Immigration Control Act of 1986, the state of Tennessee enforced a law that penalized businesses hiring illegal aliens by jerking their business licenses. Once the federal law went into effect the illegal immigrants began to stream into the state. I suspect other states found themselves in the same boat and suddenly became magnets for illegal immigrants.

That's why I determined that it was time to "Demagnetize Tennessee." Illegal aliens come to this country for jobs or government benefits or both. If we cut off the lures that attract them, they'll go home and get in line to come here legally. I met with state representatives and senators on the issue of demagnetizing our state and the response was positive. We took the issue to the people with a "Demagnetize Tennessee" rally and over a thousand of our listeners joined us to show their support.

Although I thought they never would, the U.S. Congress responded to the growing problem of illegal immigration with a comprehensive bill, passed late in 2005. Part of that bill would restore the rights of the states to fine or revoke the licenses of businesses that hire illegal immigrants. Its fate now rests with the U.S. Senate and it is imperative that they pass it—without any guest worker amendment—and allow the individual states to once again have a voice in controlling this illegal activity.

President Bush keeps repeating that illegal aliens are doing the jobs Americans just won't do. That's not true and he knows it. Illegal aliens are doing the jobs Americans just won't do FOR SO LITTLE MONEY. We're not going to live 20 people to a room and take \$3 an hour under the table and wire half our money back home. I challenge the president to name ONE job that Americans won't do.

Illegal immigration short-circuits the capitalist system. In time, it will short-circuit our nation. We cannot allow that to happen. We must demagnetize our nation and we must do it now.

*We invite FAIR members and other reformers to contribute to this feature. Send us your account of how you got involved and share your successes with others working for the cause.*

## Monthly Outrage

### *American Flags Banned from Schools as Symbols of "Intimidation, Harassment and Blatant Bigotry"*

As protests demanding amnesty for illegal aliens spread across the country, thousands of kids, including many who are here illegally, but nevertheless enjoy the benefits of a taxpayer-funded education, ditched school to take part in the rallies. Many of these kids waved Mexican flags as they walked out of school and in some cases pulled American flags off of their school buildings and replaced them with Mexican ones.

Witnessing these demonstrations, many American kids responded by displaying American flags as a show of support for their country. School officials in California and Colorado reacted to these spontaneous displays of patriotism by banning flags and flags on T-shirts and other apparel from school grounds. As Tom Stumpf, principal of Skyline High School in Longmont, Colorado, put it, "The flags were no longer being used as symbols of patriotism or cultural heritage, but ethnic intimidation, harassment and blatant bigotry." Similar bans were put into effect in schools in California. The public outcry over the banning of American flags in American schools was so intense that the Colorado legislature threatened to cut off state funding to schools that adopt such policies.

Montgomery County, Maryland did not go so far as to ban American flags, but they did decide to award students who participated in a pro-amnesty rally in Washington, D.C. with credits toward their community service requirements.