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TRUE Comprehensive Immigration Reform Introduced in the House

Key leaders of the House of Representatives stepped up to the plate recently with a bold new plan to end America's mass illegal immigration crisis. Their solution is a comprehensive legislative package that, if enacted and enforced, would secure the border and remove nearly every incentive for people to enter or remain in the U.S. illegally. Known as the TRUE Enforcement and Border Security Act of 2005, H.R. 4313 is the most comprehensive bill ever introduced to address our enormous national problem and FAIR believes it to be the litmus test for politicians who say they are "tough on immigration" to prove that promise to the American people.

TRUE Enforcement, introduced by Congressmen Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) and Virgil Goode (R-Va.) along with 18 original sponsors, is a direct challenge to political leaders of both parties who claim to favor immigration enforcement.

TRUE Enforcement would make real, measurable enforcement of U.S. immigration laws a prerequisite to any new immigration benefit programs, such as an expansion of guest worker programs. From our borders, to the workplace, to hospital maternity wards, to the streets of countless communities across the nation, TRUE Enforcement would impose meaningful deterrents and penalties on illegal aliens, the people who employ those illegals, and local governments that shield them.

At the southern border, H.R. 4313 would authorize and fund completion of a double fence that extends from the Pacific Ocean to Brownsville, Texas, and an expansion of detention facilities to bring a halt to the current "catch and release" policy that has turned border enforcement into an expensive farce. Rep. Hunter, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has been the primary supporter of the border fence that effectively slashed illegal immigration and drug smuggling in the San Diego area.

Unlike most other immigration enforcement proposals, TRUE Enforcement extends well beyond the actual border. It mandates a secure worker verification process based on secure documents that protect individual privacy, and imposes stiff penalties against employers who hire illegal aliens. In addition, TRUE Enforcement eliminates business tax deductions for employers who have illegal aliens on the payroll. One of the unique provisions of the bill empowers ordinary Americans who have been directly harmed by employers who hire illegal alien labor to sue those employers.

H.R. 4313 makes it clear to state and local governments that if they are not prepared to cooperate in the enforcement of immigration laws, then they had better be prepared to absorb the costs of illegal immigration on their own. The bill offers the carrot of federal training and reimbursement for the costs of illegal immigration if local governments become partners in enforcement, and the stick of withholding federal funds from local governments that shield illegal aliens through sanctuary policies.

TRUE Enforcement also includes a clear message to the illegal aliens themselves: You will not be rewarded for breaking our immigration laws. It ends the practice of automatic birthright citizenship for the children of illegal aliens born in this country. The bill would hammer the absurd policy of granting the Earned Income Tax Credit to people who are legally barred from holding jobs in the first place. It precludes illegal aliens from Social Security benefits based on having worked in the U.S. illegally. Illegal presence in the U.S. would also become a crime and the use or sale of fraudulent documents, or making a false claim of citizenship, would carry severe penalties.

As Congressman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), one of the bill's original sponsors noted at a Capitol Hill press conference, "This is the most comprehensive immigration enforcement bill that has ever been offered." TRUE Enforcement incorporates virtually every proposal for immigration enforcement FAIR has advocated over many years. "TRUE Enforcement takes all of the things proven to work and puts them in one package," summarized FAIR president Dan Stein, who also spoke at the Capitol Hill news conference.

It has long been clear to FAIR and to every other responsible advocates for immigration reform that enforcement cannot be conducted solely at the border. TRUE Enforcement provides a multi-layered strategy to combat a complex and multi-layered problem. The bill also rejects the tried-and-failed approach of coupling enforcement with expanded immigration benefits. For the first time, this legislation requires that the government fulfill its countless promises to the American people to enforce our immigration laws before it even contemplates rewards for the people who break our laws.

TRUE Enforcement at a Glance

TRUE Enforcement vastly enhances security along our borders. It:

- Secures our nation's borders and fully polices our interior;
- Empowers local police to enforce immigration laws;
- Encourages state and local authorities to share information with the federal government;
- Forces the Department of Homeland Security to fully implement the computerized entry-exit system, which allows authorities to track who's crossing our borders;
- Funds thousands of new Border Patrol officers, immigration investigators, attorneys, and immigration judges.

TRUE Enforcement removes incentives for illegal immigration. It:

- Prevents employers from hiring illegal aliens (using a high-tech Social Security card for aliens and mandatory verification system);
- Punishes employers and aliens who try to get around the system;
- Restricts family reunification to nuclear family members;
- Denies birthright citizenship to children born to illegal aliens.

TRUE Enforcement fights abuse of the system. It:

- Restricts illegal aliens from claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit;
- Stops illegal aliens from collecting Social Security;
- Stops employer tax deductions for wages paid to illegal aliens.

TRUE Enforcement punishes those who break the law. It:

- Makes the presence of illegal aliens in the U.S. a crime;
- Increases penalties for forging immigration and identity documents, and falsely claiming U.S. citizenship, etc;
- Helps law enforcement deport aliens who are criminal gang members;
- Creates criminal penalties for peddling Social Security cards;
- Increases penalties for alien smuggling.

Adding Insult to Injury: American Workers Edged Out of Katrina Reconstruction Jobs

Displaced from their homes and jobs by this summer's massive hurricane, many Gulf Coast workers now find themselves being displaced from reconstruction jobs by contractors who prefer lower wage illegal aliens. After receiving complaints from about 75 electricians working to construct a tent city at Louisiana's Belle Chasse Naval Air Station for displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina, Senator Mary Landrieu asked the Immigration and Customs Enforcement to investigate.

In mid-October, ICE arrested about 100 illegal aliens working at the naval base, employed by BE&K, a subcontractor to Halliburton Corp., the company once headed by Vice President Dick Cheney. "It is a downright shame that any contractor would use this tragedy as an opportunity to line his pockets by breaking the law and hiring a low-skilled, low-wage, and illegal work force," said senator Landrieu.

The predicament of the 75 American electricians who were laid off from their jobs is more egregious in light of the devastation that so many Americans incurred in the Gulf region, but is hardly unique. Similar stories have been told for years by American workers in all parts of the country in a variety of occupations. This case illustrates the insatiable desire by many employers for cut-rate labor at the expense of American workers and is why FAIR has steadfastly opposed calls for expanded guest worker programs. In almost every instance in which employers seek foreign labor — be it illegal aliens or guest workers — there are Americans who are willing and able to do the jobs.

Senator Landrieu is right. It is a downright shame contractors would use the devastation of hurricane Katrina to boost their profit margins. But this downright shame occurs every day in every part of the United States as employers replace American workers with illegal aliens — always away from the media attention drawn to the Gulf area by Katrina.

FAIR Joins Ten Members of Congress at Capitol Hill News Conference Announcing TRUE Enforcement Bill

At a Capitol Hill news conference on Nov. 3, ten members of congress announced the introduction of the TRUE Enforcement Border Security Act of 2005. FAIR president Dan Stein also attended the press conference and pledged, on behalf of the organization's nearly 200,000 members and supporters, FAIR's full commitment to implementing the important provisions of the bill.

As the nation's largest and most powerful immigration reform organization, FAIR has worked for more than 25 years to educate members of Congress, the media and the public about the need to implement true comprehensive immigration reform and real enforcement of our immigration laws. Stein's presence, alongside the congressional leaders who sponsored H.R. 4313, is a testament to the work of the organization and the power of FAIR members and supporters.

Speaking at the news conference, Congressman Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), an original co-sponsor and long-time congressional champion of true immigration reform, assessed the changing climate toward immigration reform in Washington. "We have momentum on our side. That's what has changed," he said. "We [proponents of true immigration reform] are now on the offensive and the people who support open borders are on the defensive."

Another original co-sponsor, J.D. Hayworth (R-Ariz.), openly criticized Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff for talking about immigration enforcement as a "security complement" to a guest worker program. "First we must close the loopholes and then — and only then — can we consider guest worker programs," Hayworth stated.

The two principal sponsors, Congressmen Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) and Virgil Goode (R-Va.), laid out for the national media the broad provisions of their bill and why these measures are vital to the nation. While Hunter, whose congressional district lies along the U.S.-Mexico border, emphasized completion of the border fence, he noted that, "nine-tenths of this bill addresses all the other things that need to be done. This bill really brings together all the elements" of a comprehensive enforcement strategy, Hunter said. Goode, in his remarks, stated that "this bill will say no to illegal immigration to the U.S."

[Watch the news conference.](#)

Around the Country

Utah

Utah may be hundreds of miles from both the Mexican and Canadian borders, but the Minuteman phenomenon is taking hold in the state. Out-of-control immigration is becoming Utah's hottest issue and the growing immigration reform movement has attracted the attention of the state's media. The Minutemen join a growing list of immigration reform groups in the state, along with Utahns for Immigration Reform (UFIRE), which was founded in 2003 by activists Mike Sizer, Alma Morales, and former state legislator Matt Throckmorton. *The Deseret News*, Utah's leading newspaper, credits UFIRE with making significant changes in state policies. "The tables turned somewhat in the last legislative session," notes the paper. Groups like UFIRE succeeded in scaling back driver's license privileges for illegal aliens and are working to repeal in-state tuition benefits. Looking ahead to 2006, leading members of the legislature are planning to introduce bills to crack down on employers who hire illegal aliens and UFIRE is planning a major push to limit access by illegal aliens to all state-funded benefits and services.

Tennessee

In the aftermath of the attacks of 9/11, Tennessee took the unusual step of making it easier for illegal aliens to get state driver's licenses. That action so outraged Tennesseans it helped spur the formation of locally-based immigration reform groups. The leading immigration reform organization, Tennesseans for Responsible Immigration Policies (TnRIP), is actively working for local immigration enforcement. In June, FAIR hosted a regional immigration reform conference in Nashville to educate regional reform organizations. On Oct. 19, Tennessee State Senator Mark Norris introduced legislation to authorize the state Highway Patrol to receive federal training in immigration law enforcement. Citing Tennessee's growing problem and the success of similar programs in Alabama and Florida, Norris stated that, "Illegal immigration must be addressed more effectively at all levels of government."

Virginia

The massive public opposition to government-financed hiring centers for illegal day laborers is not dying down in spite of the Herndon Town Council's decision to ignore local residents and accommodate illegal aliens. Reform groups in Northern Virginia, which fought valiantly to block approval of the Herndon hiring center, are now teaming up with the Minuteman Project to monitor activities at the site. Community reformers plan to dispatch teams of observers who will watch for illegal activities, photograph license plates of people suspected of hiring illegal workers and turning that information over to immigration and tax authorities. FAIR, working with the Washington, D.C.-based Judicial Watch, is moving forward with legal challenges to the Herndon hiring center.

Maryland

Perhaps owing to the public outrage sparked by Herndon, Virginia's Town Council to ignore public opposition to an illegal alien hiring center, officials in nearby Montgomery County, Maryland, have called off a proposed hiring site in Gaithersburg...at least for now. A spokesman for Montgomery County and Gaithersburg mayor Sidney Katz both expressed continued commitment to building a hiring center in the Gaithersburg area. FAIR has been working closely with local immigration reform groups in Montgomery County, which is located just outside of Washington, D.C.

Georgia

Georgia immigration reformers are turning up the heat on the state legislature and the governor. An October 17 rally in front of the State Capitol in Atlanta demanded the Georgia legislature approve, and Governor Sonny Perdue sign, bills that would significantly restrict access by illegal aliens to state-funded benefits and services. The legislation, spearheaded by state Senator Chip Rogers, would accomplish by legislative action what voters in Arizona achieved through passage of Proposition 200 in November 2004. The rally was broadcast live by the cable TV station that covers the state legislature.

Oregon

A steady rain could not deter some 150 immigration reformers in Oregon who met at the Oregon Capitol in Salem on October 15 to demand the state join the effort to enforce the nation's immigration laws. The rally was organized by Oregonians for Immigration Reform, www.oregonir.org, a group that works closely with FAIR. The growing immigration reform movement in Oregon is seeking to limit state benefits and services to illegal aliens and fighting efforts to grant driver's licenses to illegal aliens.

FAIR Represents Views of American Public at San Diego Border Patrol Forum

In an effort to improve communications and understanding within the community, the Border Patrol in the San Diego area conducts periodic meetings with community leaders. Immigrants are represented by a variety of advocacy groups, all of whom urge the Border Patrol to restrict its activities and relax enforcement.

As the nation's leading advocacy group promoting the interests of American citizens in the area of immigration policy, FAIR was invited to speak to the San Diego Border Patrol Sector's Community Outreach Opportunity Program on September 29. The San Diego Border Patrol sector sought out FAIR to ensure that its agents heard the voices of Americans who support their effort to enforce the border, not just the interest groups that oppose enforcement.

This year's speakers included Rick Oltman, Western Field Director for FAIR; Christian Ramirez, American Friends Service Community; Luis C. Cabrera, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego; and Ruben Navarrette Jr., of the Washington Post Writers Group.

Oltman was the only one of the four invited to speak who gave wholehearted support of immigration law enforcement and border security, and also said surrender was no option, even though many open borders advocates continued to admonish the Border Patrol because they couldn't stop the influx of illegal aliens.

Oltman assured the veteran agents, supervisors and new recruits that the American people support their efforts and support was growing as more Americans became aware of the damage and threats to the country resulting from unsecured borders. In addition to the constant sniping from illegal alien advocacy groups, the men and women on the front lines protecting our borders are often frustrated by government policies that tie their hands. The September 29 meeting was an opportunity to demonstrate the widespread support within the community for the Border Patrol's efforts and offer the agents, who often perform their tasks under difficult conditions, appreciation for the work they do.

Reformer Tools: *Writing an Effective Letter to the Editor*

Winning the immigration reform battle will require the participation of Americans from Main Street to Wall Street. FAIR and its staff are active around the nation, but we can't be everywhere. That's why we rely on local reformers who care about the future of this country. We need your active participation and we want to assist you by providing helpful tools to maximize your effectiveness as immigration reformers.

Letters to the Editor

The Letters to the Editor section is the most read section of the newspaper. If printed, your letter will be read by thousands of people. In addition, legislators closely watch the letters to the editor in their local newspaper to gauge local opinion.

- Read local newspapers and magazines for fuel for letters. Watch for articles or letters that mention immigration.
- Link your letter to something that recently appeared in the newspaper. In addition to writing in response to articles that are explicitly about immigration, you can also write about articles where the immigration connection has not been made. For instance, write about immigration's impact on population growth in response to an article about crowded schools or housing, or write about the ways uncontrolled immigration harms national security efforts in response to an article about terrorism. It is extremely valuable to make this connection for readers.
- Be timely. If possible, send the letter no more than three or four days after the article you're responding to appeared.
- Be brief. Shorter letters (about 250 words or less) have a better chance of getting published.
- Offer a solution.
- Increase your credibility by mentioning anything that makes you especially qualified to write on a topic. For instance, if you're writing about the impact of illegal immigration on health care resources and you're a nurse, make sure you mention that. You can also use phrases like "as a business owner," "as a parent," "as a longtime resident of the community," etc.
- Make sure you include your name, address, and telephone number in your letter. Most newspapers verify authorship before printing letters.

Get your letter to the right person. Go to FAIR's [Legislative Action Center](#) and look up the media outlet you are writing to, and you can draft and send a letter immediately!

University of Florida Study Confirms FAIR's Findings

Immigration is a Massive Cost Burden for the State

In August FAIR issued a report entitled, [*The Costs of Illegal Immigration to Floridians*](#), in which we estimated that illegal immigration currently costs the state \$4.3 billion annually. The study estimates the cost of illegal immigration to the typical native-headed Florida household is about \$575 per year. The FAIR report examined only the impact of illegal immigration.

A new report by University of Florida economist David Denslow looks at the economic impact of both illegal and government mandated immigration. Denslow, who professes to hold pro-immigration views, concludes the typical immigrant-headed household in Florida imposes a net cost of about \$1,800 a year on each native-headed household. Denslow's figures account for state taxes paid by immigrants, but he concludes that the costs of state-funded services, particularly Medicaid and public education, result in a net \$1,800 per household burden.

Denslow's study belies the contentions of open border advocates that the antidote to the problems of mass illegal immigration is a massive increase in legal immigration numbers. The report confirms immigrants admitted by government mandate are just as likely to depend heavily on government financed services and benefits as those who are here illegally.

Book Review

Why Does Immigration Divide America?

Author, Gordon Hanson

Examining the Disconnect Between Public Opinion and Public Policy On U.S. Immigration Policy

The essence of the debate over immigration policy is summarized in the preface to Gordon Hanson's new book, *Why Does Immigration Divide America?: Public Finance and Political Opposition to Open Borders*.

Hanson astutely explains the political gridlock that exists with policy where there is near consensus among the American public. While Americans of all political persuasions are united in the belief that mass immigration — legal and illegal — is detrimental to the nation, the political establishment is, at best, reluctant to institute meaningful reforms. “Immigration is making the U.S. population larger and more ethnically diverse and the U.S. labor force more abundant in low-skilled labor. One consequence of these changes has been lower wages for low-skilled U.S. workers. More generally, the benefits and costs of immigration appear to be distributed quite unevenly. Capital owners, land owners, and employers capture most of the benefits associated with immigration, which they enjoy in the form of higher factor returns. Taxpayers in high-immigration U.S. states shoulder most of immigration's fiscal costs, which they bear in the form of higher taxes that go to pay for public services used by immigrant households.”

Both political parties, in other words, have to placate small, but powerful, interests that benefit immediately and substantially from the redistribution of income and wealth that results from mass immigration. The political leadership has been able to accommodate the special interests by incrementally spreading the pain and costs of mass immigration among the majority of the American public.

“Among Republicans, the business lobby persistently advocates for access to foreign labor,” Hanson observes. However, the party's base is alarmed by the overwhelming fiscal and social consequences of mass immigration. “Democrats are no more united. Union leaders have joined with Latino groups in support of permanent legal immigration and of an amnesty for illegal immigrants.”

Hanson is a Professor of Economics at the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California at San Diego. *Why Does Immigration Divide America?* can be ordered from the Institute for International Economics at bookstore.iie.com/ for \$19.95.

From the Hill: A Note on TRUE Enforcement from Rep. Virgil Goode

I recently joined with Chairman Duncan Hunter to introduce the TRUE Enforcement and Border Security Act because I believe it is vital to the safety of the United States and the integrity of this nation's immigration laws. This comprehensive legislation re-quires the construction of a land barrier and necessary infrastructure along our international border with Mexico and addresses many of the inadequacies in the enforcement of America's illegal immigration laws.

It has become evident over the past few years the flood of illegal immigration poses a growing threat to our national security and the number of Americans calling for tougher immigration laws and stricter control of our borders has grown. A poll by the Pew Research Organization in 2003 found 80 percent of Americans believe we should restrict the number of immigrants coming into our country more than we do currently. Two polls in the Rassmussen Report this year found close to two-thirds of Americans believing current immigration is a threat to our national security and our economy. It is estimated there are at least 12 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. and some estimates put the figure as high as 20 million.

There is no question the U.S.'s southern border with Mexico is porous, allowing illegal immigrants, drug traffickers and potential terrorists to enter almost at will. TRUE Enforcement addresses these pressing needs. First, it requires completion of a land barrier and necessary infrastructure along our international border with Mexico. Also, it empowers local police to enforce immigration laws and encourages state and local authorities to share information with the federal government. Under this bill, the Department of Homeland Security is required to implement fully the computerized entry-exit system, which allows us to track who is crossing our borders and it funds thousands of new Border Patrol officers, immigration investigators, attorneys and immigration judges.

As for illegal immigrants already in the United States, TRUE Enforcement prevents em-ployers from hiring illegal aliens (using a high-tech Social Security card for aliens and mandatory verification system) and employers and aliens who try to get around the system are punished. Among immigrants, the bill restricts family reunification to nuclear family members, and it denies U.S. citizenship to children born to illegal aliens.

Illegal immigration abuses the social fabric of our system, and our bill addresses those abuses by restricting illegal immigrants from claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, keeping them from collecting Social Security and stopping employee deductions for wages paid to illegals. We also put teeth into the bill to punish violators in the following ways: Makes the presence of illegal aliens in the United States a crime; increases penalties for forging immigration and identity documents and for falsely claiming U.S. citizenship; helps law enforcement deport aliens who are criminal gang members; creates penalties for peddling Social Security cards; and increases penalties for smuggling illegal aliens.

I believe this is the most comprehensive package dealing with illegal immigration to be introduced yet, and I hope it receives a swift hearing and passage by the House of Representatives. As Dan Stein, the President of the Federation for American Immi-gration Reform said of the bill: "TRUE Enforcement provides the litmus test for the President and Congressional leaders who repeatedly pledge to the American public that they are "tough" in dealing with this national crisis."

Please keep in touch with me on issues that are important to you.

You may write Congressman Virgil Goode, 70 East Court Street, Room 215, Rocky Mount, VA; or send a fax to the Rocky Mount office, 1-540-484-1459; or call toll-free to the Danville office, 1-800-535-4008.

Immigration, Not Just Illegal Immigration, is Undermining American Workers

With all the talk — both sincere and insincere — in Washington about the crisis of mass illegal immigration, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the problem is not just people who come here illegally. Legal immigration — or, more accurately, government mandated immigration — has essentially the same impact on American workers and communities as the illegal variety.

The headline of the lead story in the Sunday “Week in Review” section of the October 23rd The New York Times, declared, “For Blacks, A Dream in Decline.” Over the past five years, the number of unionized Black Americans declined by 14.4 percent. The consequences of this phenomenon have been devastating. “Thus far this year, the median weekly wage earned by Blacks fell by 5 percent,” reports the Times. One of the key factors in the declining Black middle class is the impact of immigration. Immigration, along with outsourcing and automation, is serving to reverse hard-won economic gains that helped Black Americans achieve a tenuous foothold in the middle class. These same factors, notes the Times, also affect unionized white workers, who have seen union membership decline by 5.4 percent since 2000, and whose media, weekly wages have fallen by about 1 percent this year.

The status of the influx, whether illegal or government mandated, argues writer John Kelly in an online opinion piece, is insignificant. The full-scale effort by the Bush Administration, backed by cheap labor interest groups, is evidence that those who benefit from the mass influx of immigrant labor don't care much whether the workers are here illegally or legally, only that they are here and that there are enough of them to make sure that the law of supply and demand keeps the price of labor down.

“This problem is not only limited to the uneducated worker,” writes Kelly. “Legal immigration of educated workers has caused an increase in the unemployment and underemployment (being employed at a lower salary and skill level than they have been trained for) of college-educated U.S. natives. While the bio-tech, information technology and medical fields have been especially hard hit by this phenomenon, others are soon to open. Last year Mississippi started recruiting teachers from India.”

For many in Washington and around the country, talk of “immigration reform” is not about changing the reality of mass immigration, but rather the terms of the discussion of the issue. “The corporate and government motivation for a guest worker program is not to deal with illegal immigration but to legalize its exploitive effects and solve its public relations problems,” observes Kelly.

To combat the efforts of those in Washington and the cheap labor lobby to define the problem of mass immigration as nothing more than a law enforcement and public relations issue, FAIR has published “The Seven Principles of True Comprehensive Immigration Reform.” The third of the principles asserts that U.S. immigration policy must “Protect Wages and Standards of Living” for American workers. Whether foreign workers who undermine opportunities for American workers are in the country illegally or by government fiat is a largely irrelevant detail to those who lose their job, or suffer significant wage depression. (“The Seven Principles of True Comprehensive Immigration Reform” can be seen at www.fairus.org.)

As the debate over immigration reform heats up, FAIR will work to educate Congress and the media that immigration cannot be “reformed” through semantics. True immigration reform can only mean protecting the jobs, wages and security of all Americans.

Forty Years of Bad U.S. Immigration Policy

FAIR Annual Meeting Looks Back at the Disastrous 1965 Immigration Act and Ahead to True Comprehensive Reform

On October 3, 1965, at a ceremony alongside the Statue of Liberty, President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation that dramatically changed in this country in ways neither he, nor the bill's congressional sponsors could ever imagine. The Immigration Act of 1965 was enacted with the intent of ending overt preferences for some immigrants based on their country of origin, without significantly altering the levels or composition of immigration to the United States. In the annals of colossal miscalculations, the Immigration Act of 1965 ranks up there with the Spartans' decision to accept Troy's gift of a giant wooden horse.

This year's meeting of FAIR's Board of Directors and National Advisory Board, held in Washington, D.C., looked back on the series of unintended consequences triggered by passage of the 1965 Act, and ahead to the type of changes to America's legal immigration policies necessary to allow the nation to recover from one of the greatest legislative blunders in our history. As University of Oklahoma Professor Steven M. Gillon observed, if members of Congress in 1965 had had a crystal ball and been able to look 40 years into the future, "I would venture to say there would not have been a single vote for the bill on the floor of the Congress."

Professor Gillon, the author of a book about the 1965 Act, *That's Not What We Meant to Do: Reform and its Unintended Consequences in Twentieth Century America*, reviewed how a plan for modest reforms to an immigration policy that admitted about a quarter of a million people a year ballooned into a policy that now admits about a million immigrants annually and has millions more lined up at the gates. According to Gillon's calculations, the 1965 Immigration Act resulted in some 40 million new immigrants since its passage.

The most serious miscalculation, noted Gillon, was made by an obscure Ohio congressman named Michael Feighan, who chaired the subcommittee overseeing immigration policy. Intending to change the language of the immigration policy without changing the composition of the immigration flow, Feighan amended the bill to make family reunification, rather than skills, the primary criterion for admission to the U.S. What ensued was an escalating and never-ending chain of family migration that is the basis for U.S. immigration policy to this day.

The Board of Directors and National Advisory Board meeting featured other prominent speakers who looked at the social, economic and national security consequences of the Immigration Act of 1965. Nationally syndicated columnist Georgie Anne Geyer, who has covered countless ethnic conflicts around the world, spoke about the disunifying effects that the massive wave of immigration, touched off by the 1965 Act, are having in this country.

Paul Sperry, author of *Infiltration: How Muslim Spies and Subversives Have Penetrated Washington* (see review in the [October 2005 FAIR Immigration Report](#)), and nationally syndicated columnist John O'Sullivan also spoke of the effects of mass immigration on national unity and cohesion. Both warned that mass immigration without a focus on assimilation is a potentially lethal combination. FAIR board member Pat Choate, an economist and the 1996 Reform Party vice presidential nominee, discussed how mass immigration, combined with the profusion of trade agreements resulting in the exporting of American jobs, threatens to destroy America's middle class.

Abolishing the disastrous 40-year-old immigration policy and replacing it with one that promotes economic, social, and population stability has been FAIR's goal since the organization's inception in 1979. There was a general sense among the experts who addressed the FAIR meeting of the Board of Directors and National Advisory Board that momentum is swinging in our direction. Consensus is developing around the country that mass immigration can no longer be sustained and that the special interests that dictated American immigration policy for decades must be confronted.

In assessing the overall picture, FAIR president Dan Stein noted that the immigration issue is receiving unprecedented attention in the media and for the first time in many years there are leading members of Congress introducing bills that institute meaningful and positive immigration reform.

Senate Considering Unusual Way to Trim the Budget Deficit . . . Sell American Jobs

FAIR is combating an increase of 30,000 H-1B visas for foreign high tech workers in fiscal year 2006 also, an immigrant visa provision that could lead to as many as an additional third of a million U.S. jobs being permanently given to foreign workers. This provision was stealthily slipped into a budget bill by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) and Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) without public hearings or public discussion. "This massive immigration increase and jobs giveaway took place without so much as a hearing or any assessment of its impact on American workers," charged FAIR president Stein

The rationale for the increase was to collect more visa fees (an additional \$500 per visa) to help trim the federal deficit. The budget balancing argument is clearly a smokescreen. Sen. Feinstein (D-Cal.) attempted to get the same amount of funds raised by simply adding a fee to the unlimited L visas for transferred foreign company employees. "What I don't want to see is Americans lose their jobs," said Feinstein. Her approach would not have raised the number of visas. FAIR is supporting an effort in the full Senate by Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.) to eliminate the Specter amendment and replace it with the approach suggested by Sen. Feinstein.

A visa fee was added to the L visa in the House, and if the Senate does not eliminate the Specter amendment, the difference between the Senate and the House will have to be resolved in a conference committee. FAIR members have been actively trying to combat this irresponsible and harmful effort to increase the job competition for American high tech workers by urging support for Sen. Byrd's amendment to remove the Specter amendment. We are working in tandem with other organizations that represent professional workers. If this approach should fail, we will seek further help in urging House members to the conference committee to stand fast for the House version that does not raise visas and Senate conferees to accept the House version.

Reformer Corner

Carol Helm

This month's reformer is Carol Helm of Oklahoma. We invite FAIR members and other reformers to include short accounts of how they got involved and share their successes with others working for this cause.

People become involved in immigration reform when it begins to affect their lives, or the lives of their families, directly. My involvement began in the mid 1990s, when my sister's family moved from California to Tombstone, and then Sierra Vista, Arizona. As we visited on the phone she would say that sensors were going off in their house as illegal aliens were crossing their land. I could not believe America's ranchers had to apprehend foreign invaders, give them water and food, then call the Border Patrol to pick them up only for the illegals to be released. Neither Congress nor the media would pay them any attention so the rest of the nation was not aware.

I soon came to realize immigration was not just an issue of concern to people who live along our nation's borders. Whether you live in southern Arizona, or in the heart of Oklahoma, illegal immigration is a threat. So, with three other far-sighted individuals in the Tulsa area, I founded Immigration Reform for Oklahoma Now (IRON).

When people around the country think of Oklahoma, they do not think of it as a place with an immigration problem. But even in the heartland of America, the failure of the government to control our borders is affecting the lives of ordinary citizens. With more than 100,000 illegal aliens residing in our state, and growing strains on Oklahoma's resources, illegal immigration is as much an issue here as it is in Arizona or California.

Our first group began sending Congress and state legislators facts and figures about the impact and cost of illegal immigration. It became apparent Oklahoma was a sanctuary state that turned a blind eye to illegal immigration. Oklahoma legislators told us the invasion was not a state problem. I knew somebody had to do something and that somebody was me.

Since that time our group has grown dramatically. Legislators now realize the facts and figures were true and immigration IS a state problem. Oklahoma's budget cannot fund all the services being used by the state's growing illegal alien population so the legislature is spearheading interim studies to find solutions to the enormous costs we are incurring.

After years of effort and perseverance we are beginning to see action by the Oklahoma legislature. But we are not satisfied to rely solely on the politicians to address this crucial issue. IRON recently retained an attorney for an initiative petition similar to Arizona's to be on the November 2006 ballot.

Carol Helm is the former president and owner of Castleton Corporate Apartments of Tulsa. She retired in 2000 and is the founder of Immigration Reform for Oklahoma Now.

The New Face(s) of FAIR

Many of you have written and called saying how much you appreciate the recent positive changes at FAIR: our logo; the look of our publications (including the print version of this Immigration Report); the bold initiatives we've launched on Capitol Hill; our national field program; and our renewed leadership of the American immigration reform movement. These changes are part of what we call the New FAIR. We have reorganized, restructured and reenergized our team to lead the movement we started over 25 years ago.

So, we thought we should introduce you to some of our newest staff members who are helping guide this change: (from left to right)



Rikki Horton

Government Relations Associate

Rikki is a former congressional staffer, Director of the House Immigration Reform Caucus, and most recently worked with the government relations staff of another immigration reform organization. Rikki works with House and Senate members, their staffs, and state legislators to educate and inform them on issues of importance.

Julie Kirchner

Deputy Director of Government Relations/Legislative Counsel

Julie is a lawyer and joins FAIR with a background in legislative work in the Minnesota House, legal work with a large law firm, and as a tough prosecutor. Julie provides leadership in legislative crafting and analysis.

Ashley Hutto

Directorate Support

Ashley is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas and provides administrative support for each of our nine directorates. Ashley is in training for a policy staff position in 2006.

Leah Durant

Legal Analyst

Leah holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law and comes to FAIR with both a legal background and work as an immigration reformer in Virginia. Leah will work with both our legislative and litigation departments.

Dale McGlothlin

Chief Operating Officer

Dale is a successful corporate executive recruited by FAIR in February to lead the organizational change as we grow to a larger, more powerful federation. He guides the daily operations of the organization and provides leadership training to directors and staff.

Monthly Outrage

New Haven, Connecticut, announced plans to offer its own identity documents to illegal aliens living in the city. The city-issued ID would allow illegal aliens to identify themselves to police and to access social services in the city. Mayor John DeStefano Jr. also expressed hopes that local businesses, like banks, would recognize the New Haven illegal alien ID for the purpose of opening accounts.

“All of these people are hard-working, decent members of our society on which we depend every day,” generalized Mayor DeStefano. “We can do better by them and we have to make up some of it as we go along.” DeStefano, who is a candidate for governor, is not stopping with city-issued IDs for the estimated 12,000 illegal aliens in his town. He has established the Hablamos Espanol program, which provides city documents such as marriage, birth and death certificates in Spanish.

“This is only a first step,” said one New Haven alderman. Illegal alien advocates are pressing for all services to be made available in Spanish, and to staff all city agencies with Spanish-speaking personnel.