



FAIR FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

Immigration REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

Inside . . .

AMNESTY FOR SALE
PAGE 2

USCIS UNION WARNS ABOUT
DANGERS OF AMNESTY
PAGE 3

ILLEGAL ALIENS GET NEW
BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS
IN CALIFORNIA
PAGE 3

BUSINESSES LAY OFF
WORKERS AND DEMAND
MORE IMMIGRANTS
PAGE 4

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION
ON THE RISE
PAGE 4

Republican House Leaders: Amnesty Is a Real Possibility in 2013

The threat of a massive illegal alien amnesty is real and immediate. Leading House Republicans are pressing ahead with plans to bring an immigration bill to a vote before the end of 2013. In spite of the bitter battles playing out in Congress over the budget, the debt ceiling, and funding for Obamacare, these House leaders believe that they can come to an agreement with Senate Democrats in conference on a final bill that includes amnesty.

In an interview with Univision in early October, chairwoman of the House Republican Conference, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), emphasized that immigration remains a priority for the House leadership.

I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A WINDOW HERE BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE YEAR AND THAT THIS IS A PRIORITY.

—CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS (R-WASH.)

CONTINUED on page 5

National Mall Closed to WWII Veterans, Open to Illegal Aliens Demanding Amnesty

World War II veterans now in their eighties and nineties, who in their youth stormed the beaches of Normandy and Iwo Jima, were forced to storm barricades erected by the National Park Service to visit a memorial to their heroisms on the National



CONTINUED on page 6



25 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW
SUITE 330
WASHINGTON, DC 20001
(202) 328 7004
INFO@FAIRUS.ORG
WWW.FAIRUS.ORG

Amnesty for Sale: If You Can't Win It, Buy It

Amnesty supporters have had a hard time convincing the American people of the merits of rewarding millions of illegal aliens with eventual citizenship, and it seems they no longer care. With the backing of business interests that believe there should be no constraints on hiring foreign workers, amnesty and mass immigration advocates have determined that they will just **buy** the immigration policies they want.

At an October event hosted by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) predicted that efforts to pass amnesty and huge immigration increases would succeed because their coalition is poised to spend unprecedented amounts of money to get a bill to the president's desk. "[P]robably the most significant factor is there is no money on the other side of this issue. There's nobody out there ready to spend \$100 million to defeat comprehensive immigration reform," boasted Yarmuth.

Yarmuth, who was among the erst-

while bipartisan "gang" of House members seeking to replicate what the Senate Gang of Eight did, went on to speak specifically about plans to buy an amnesty bill. "In fact, all the money is on the side of pushing it. And just a couple weeks ago we met with Mark Zuckerberg from Facebook and he's raised, well, a lot of his own money, but he's raised \$50 million to run ads supporting people who will support comprehensive immigration reform and to pressure people who may be on the fence."

IMMIGRATION REFORMERS WILL HAVE TO INCREASE GRASSROOTS PRESSURE ON THE HOUSE TO PREVENT ATTEMPTS BY THE OPPOSITION TO BUY IMMIGRATION POLICIES.



In the past, FAIR has waged battles against amnesty and immigration increases, even as we were massively outspent by special interest money on the other side. Rep. Yarmuth's frank admission proves that the pro-amnesty lobby is prepared to significantly up the ante. In response, true immigration reformers will have to increase grassroots pressure on the House to prevent this crass attempt by the opposition to buy the kinds of immigration policies that they could not win on the merits.

Immigration REPORT

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USCIS Union Chief: Amnesty Would Endanger Americans

If a massive illegal alien amnesty were to become a reality, the security of the American public would be jeopardized. That is the assessment of Kenneth Palinkas, president of the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council—the union representing 12,000 employees of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency.

In an interview with *The Blaze*, Palinkas charged that the USCIS employees tasked with evaluating applicants for immigration benefits—including citizenship—in many cases lack the ability to carry out in-person interviews.

In addition, the agency does not even have a reliable software system to properly screen people. Describing the agency as “an approval machine,”

USCIS ADJUDICATION OFFICERS LACK THE MISSION SUPPORT TO SAFELY SCREEN AND REVIEW APPLICANTS FOR IMMIGRATION BENEFITS.

—KENNETH PALINKAS, PRESIDENT
NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES COUNCIL

Palinkas asserts that USCIS personnel are under enormous pressure “to grant immigration benefits to those who, under law, are not properly eligible.”

All of the issues plaguing USCIS are occurring under the agency’s existing workload. Processing new amnesty applications could feed 11 million additional cases into the “approval machine.” Palinkas warns, “advancing such measures without first confronting the widespread abuses at USCIS would be to invite disaster.”

As House leadership edges towards bringing an immigration

bill—which would no doubt include amnesty as its centerpiece—to conference committee with the Senate, Palinkas warns that “these plans are being pursued before first reforming the very agency—USCIS—that will be charged with reviewing these tens of millions of green card, temporary visa and citizenship applications.”

The union representing USCIS professionals, like the union representing Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees, also complained that their input is not being sought as the administration seeks to approve amnesty at all costs.

Is This the Future in Other States? Gov. Brown Signs Bill Giving Illegal Aliens More Public Welfare and Other Benefits

If California weren’t already the Garden of Eden for illegal aliens, it is now thanks to a series of bills signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown in early October. Over the course of a week, Gov. Brown signed bills authorizing illegal aliens to obtain driver’s licenses, practice law, and avoid consequences from their employers for having engaged in identity fraud. If that were not enough, the governor also signed AB 4, the so-called Trust Act, prohibiting law enforcement agencies in California from honoring most requests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain deportable aliens who have been

arrested and charged with other offenses and ICE wants to deport.

The first of the key immigration bills signed by Brown was AB 60, which will grant driver’s licenses to illegal aliens beginning in 2015. “No longer are undocumented people in the shadows. They are alive and well and respected in the state of California,” declared Brown as he signed the bill on the steps of Los Angeles City Hall. Brown also claimed, without substantiation, that granting licenses to illegal aliens would make California roads safer. Other supporters of AB 60 argued that the bill is

Business Leaders Demand Foreign Workers to Address “Workforce Needs”

(As They Lay Off American Workers)

In September, more than one hundred chief human resource officers of leading corporations signed a letter addressed to House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) demanding action on an immigration bill.

In the letter, the business executives called passage of amnesty and immigration increases “a long overdue step toward aligning our nation’s immigration policies with its workforce needs at all skill levels to ensure U.S. global competitiveness.” According to the letter, these “workforce needs” include greater access to both high- and low-skill foreign workers.

Yet, despite their urgent “workforce needs,” many of the companies demanding more foreign workers have recently carried out major lay-offs or are planning to lay off workers. It seems that their “workforce needs” include downsizing domestic workers and replacing them with foreign workers.

.....

Quick•Facts

- Cisco Systems—12,000 layoffs since 2011
 - Archer Daniels Midland—1,200 layoffs in 2012
 - Cigna—1,300 layoffs—in 2012
 - Hewlett-Packard—29,000 layoffs in 2012
 - Procter & Gamble—5,700 layoffs in 2012
 - T-Mobile—2,250 layoffs in 2012
 - Texas Instruments—2,000 layoffs in 2012
 - American Express—5,400 layoffs in 2013
 - United Technologies—3,000 layoffs planned in 2013
 - Verizon—1,700 layoffs planned in 2013
-

Illegal Alien Population Increases Despite Claims of Zero Net Illegal Immigration

Math problem: If a country has zero net illegal immigration for four years and deports 1.4 million illegal aliens over that same period, how does its total illegal alien population increase by 400,000?

According to new estimates by the Pew Research Center, the illegal alien population of the United States stood at 11.7 million in 2012, up from 11.3 million in 2009. This growth—equal to the population of Oakland, California—occurred even as the Obama administration and others have claimed that net new illegal immigration has ceased and that it has deported record numbers of illegal aliens. These claims—that the problem of illegal immigration has been dealt with—serve as the basis of the case for proceeding with a massive amnesty for illegal aliens.

The answer to the math problem is obvious: Illegal immigration is not under control. According to Jeffrey Passel, one of the authors of the Pew report, “current enforcement practices have not led to any measurable reduction beyond the 2009 period.” FAIR’s warning that we could expect to see a resurgence of illegal immigration when employers started hiring again has been proven correct.

Moreover, we are likely to see an even sharper increase in illegal immigration when data for 2013 are available. Border apprehensions—a good barometer of the flow of illegal immigration—rose by 13 percent in the first half of 2013 as Congress and the president created the expectation of a massive amnesty. Other phenomena, such as the Obama administration’s encouragement of asylum abuse, are likely adding even more illegal aliens to our population.

The latest data from Pew support FAIR’s contention that claims of tighter immigration enforcement are designed to persuade the public to overcome resistance to amnesty and immigration increases. If the administration were to achieve its political goal of amnesty, even the pretense of immigration enforcement would quickly evaporate.



Did You Know...?

There are now over 90 million Americans **not** working. If enacted, the Senate “Gang of 8” bill (S. 744) would add an **additional** 150,000 to 200,000 foreign workers to the U.S. workforce **every month** for the next 20 years.

IMPENDING AMNESTY *continued*

“We must pass immigration reform,” she declared. “It’s a priority for Republicans, for Democrats.”

McMorris Rodgers’ remarks echo those of Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), who chairs the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over immigration legislation. In late September, Goodlatte expressed support for an expedited amnesty for a Republican sponsored DREAM Act. He is working on such a bill with fellow Virginia Republican Eric Cantor, the House Majority Leader. Goodlatte also indicated that he is receptive to the idea of general amnesty. “We have to find the appropriate legal status for people who are not lawfully here,” Goodlatte said in a carefully finessed statement.

WE HAVE TO FIND THE APPROPRIATE LEGAL STATUS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LAWFULLY HERE.

—BOB GOODLATTE

The Judiciary Chairman claims that he is opposed to the “special pathway to citizenship” included in the Senate Gang of Eight bill. However, his plan for bestowing “legal status” on millions of illegal aliens would not preclude eventual citizenship. Illegal aliens would be able to pursue green cards and citizenship through the current family-based and employment-based sponsorship channels. Moreover, these channels would be significantly broadened under the bill already approved by the Senate.

Getting to a conference committee with Senate leaders is emerging as

the House Republican leadership’s strategy for dealing with immigration. Despite opposition to amnesty legislation from their conference, House Republican leaders believe they can craft a deal on amnesty in conference that they can pass with support of House Democrats.

The most likely vehicle eyed by Republican House leaders to get to conference is H.R. 1417, the Border Security Results Act. The legislation, sponsored by House Homeland Security Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Tex.), purports to be an enforcement bill. In reality, it is almost identical to the Senate bill in that it sets border security goals, but does not actually require that those goals are ever achieved.

Senate Democratic leaders share the House Republican leadership’s desire to get to a conference committee. Senate Democrats have dropped their demand that the House approve a “comprehensive” immigration bill (a euphemism for amnesty), and would be satisfied with a limited House bill. In an interview with a Las Vegas radio station, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) stated flatly, “If we go to conference, we would win.”

While there are other Republican sponsored bills in the House that reflect a more sincere effort to improve immigration enforcement, FAIR is concerned that even beneficial legislation would be hijacked by House leaders to produce an amnesty bill.

ILLEGAL ALIENS OVER AMERICAN VETERANS *continued*

Mall. The open air World War II Memorial was closed to them and other visitors because of the government shut-down.

When illegal aliens and their supporters showed up on the officially closed Mall a few days later to hold a rally demanding amnesty, they got quite a different reception. Instead of barricades, the National Park Service rolled out the red carpet for their event, called Camino Americano. They were permitted to erect speakers' podiums and public address systems, while some 30 members of Congress were shuttled down from Capitol Hill on government golf carts to address the crowd.

Among the bipartisan group of legislators addressing the rally organized by the Service Employees International Union and Casa de Maryland were House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Gang of Eight member Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.), and others. In addition to leading cheers of "Si se puede!" (Yes we can!), eight members of Congress were arrested on behalf of the illegal alien amnesty cause when joined with a group of protestors

who blocked a street near Congress. White House spokesman Jay Carney applauded the Camino Americano rally on the Mall as an "enthusiastic demonstration of support for immigration reform."

The disgraceful disparity in treatment of aging World War II veterans and illegal aliens was largely ignored by the mainstream media. It would have gone unnoticed by most Americans, except for efforts by FAIR to draw attention to it. Several members of FAIR's staff attended the rally on the Mall, taking photographs and video of the event and the members of Congress who turned up to offer their support to illegal aliens. Using Twitter and Facebook, FAIR provided real-time coverage of how illegal aliens were being treated with greater deference than World War II veterans.

Americans also learned about the outrageous exception being made for illegal aliens from FAIR spokespeople who appeared on national and local talk radio programs on the day of the Camino Americano rally as well as on television and in online and print coverage of the event.



CALIF. ILLEGAL ALIENS GET BENEFITS *continued*

necessary because illegal aliens need to drive to get to work, ignoring the fact that they are barred from employment under federal law.

Two days later, Gov. Brown signed AB 4, impeding the ability of ICE to deport most foreign criminals who are arrested in California. Instead, these deportable aliens will be released back into communities across California (and potentially across the United States) if they can post bail, instead of being turned over to ICE.

According to polling commissioned by FAIR on the eve of Gov. Brown signing these bills, California voters overwhelmingly opposed both granting driver's licenses to illegal aliens and refusing to honor ICE detainer requests. The poll, conducted by Zogby Analytics, found that 56 percent of likely California voters think the Trust Act will endanger public safety, compared with only 24 percent who think it will make the state safer. Similarly, 55 percent of voters opposed granting driver's licenses to illegal aliens, while only 36 percent thought it was a good idea.

The poll also found that potential ballot initiatives to overturn both laws would enjoy broad support. Some 61 percent of voters said they would support a ballot measure repealing the Trust Act, while only 12 percent would oppose such a measure. Likewise, 53 percent of voters would vote to overturn the law allowing illegal aliens to obtain driver's licenses compared with 30 percent who would vote against repealing AB 60.

The complete results of FAIR's California poll, including the questions that were asked, can be found on our website FAIRus.org.



Californians disagree with Governor Brown. A recent poll found:

55% oppose granting driver's licenses to illegal aliens.

56% think the Trust Act will endanger public safety.

60% believe that state and local governments should pass policies that discourage illegal immigrants from settling in California.

■

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