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Illegal Alien Day Labor Hiring Sites Become National Issue

Battle Over Herndon, Virginia Sparks Activism and Media Attention

Ignoring overwhelming community opposition and the recommendation of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Planning Commission to a publicly financed hiring center for illegal alien day laborers, the town of Herndon approved construction and operation of the site in a 5 to 2 vote on August 17. Herndon is now slated to spend \$400,000 of the public's money to construct the job center.

The vote on the measure was delayed by more than 24 hours because so many people signed up to testify before the town council. The scene outside the municipal building in the town of 22,000 resembled a major political convention. Hundreds of Northern Virginia residents stood outside the town hall carrying placards opposing construction of the hiring center. A few dozen illegal aliens and their supporters rallied in favor of the job site. In addition, the street in front of the town hall was lined with mobile television broadcast centers as local and national media covered this unprecedented demonstration of public opposition to illegal immigration. In the end, however, the Herndon Town Council sided with the illegal aliens over the law-abiding, tax-paying residents of the community.

While the residents of Herndon lost this battle, what took place there provides evidence of growing public discontent about mass immigration and indicates the American people refuse to sit by quietly as politicians pander to the interests of illegal aliens. FAIR has worked for years with concerned citizens and community leaders across the United States who confront huge influxes of illegal alien day laborers.

The Herndon hiring site is also becoming an issue in this November's gubernatorial election. Republican candidate and state Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore sided with the opponents of the hiring site. "We face a fundamental decision in Virginia," Kilgore told the Washington Post. "Will we reward illegal behavior with hard-earned tax dollars from law-abiding citizens? I say the answer to this questions should be an easy one: No." The Democratic candidate and Lieutenant Governor Timothy M. Kaine accused Kilgore of "putting ideology over a practical solution."

Local opponents of the Herndon hiring site received support from FAIR in their effort to keep it out of their community. In addition to working with Northern Virginia reformers to organize groups to oppose mass immigration in their communities, FAIR published an activist handbook and legal manual to help guide community-based groups wishing to confront issues like day labor hiring centers. While Herndon, by virtue of its proximity to the Washington, D.C. media market, attracted national attention; similar battles are being fought in communities across the country.

FAIR encourages immigration reform activists to avail themselves of the resources available to confront illegal alien hiring centers and other immigration reform issues in their communities. Much of the information is available on our website www.fairus.org. Copies of the activist handbook and legal manual can be purchased by calling FAIR at 1-877-627-3247.

Terrorist Ties to Herndon Day Labor Center?

Why is an individual with close ties to radical Islamic groups interested in having the town of Herndon, Virginia build a hiring center for illegal alien workers who hail primarily from Mexico and Central America? According to information uncovered by FAIR, Mukit Hussein, the director of Project Hope and Harmony, the group behind the day laborer hiring center, also serves on the board of organizations being investigated for links to Middle East terrorist organizations.

The innocuous sounding Project Hope and Harmony has offices in a pair of three-story office buildings located at 500 and 555 Grove Street in Herndon, which serve as the headquarters for about a hundred interlocking Islamic organizations, many of which are presently under investigation for ties to Islamic terrorist groups. Nearly all of these organizations are the creation of Dr. Jamal Barzinji. In investigative journalist Paul Sperry's new book, *Infiltration*, Barzinji is described by federal investigator David Kane as "not only closely associated with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad but with Hamas."

Project Hope and Harmony is seeking \$170,000 a year from the town of Herndon to run the hiring center. Another entity interested in the operation of the day labor site is a local mosque, known as the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, or ADAMS Center. The ADAMS Center, according to Sperry, "is another Saudi-controlled Wahhabi mosque," where violence against America and the West is regularly preached. The mosque, which also has offices at the Grove Street address, was raided by federal agents in March 2002, as part of the government's investigations of groups lending financial support to terrorists.

One can only speculate about the reasons Islamic groups with suspected ties to terrorism would be at the forefront of promoting a hiring center for Hispanic illegal aliens. Gaining legitimacy through association with local governments, obtaining government financing under the guise of performing a public service, and recruiting within a beholden Hispanic community are all plausible explanations.

Whatever the reason or reasons, it is clear that exploiting America's chaotic immigration system is a tactic terrorist organizations aim to employ. Based on recent events in England, the creation of domestic terrorist cells is a key component of the Islamic terrorists' strategy. From the cooperation they have received from local officials in Herndon, it seems they are succeeding.

Uncle Sam Wants You to Help an Illegal Alien Buy a Home

The Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Mortgage Guarantee Insurance Corporation (MDIC) now facilitate banks that lend money to illegal aliens looking to buy homes in this country. Both of these agencies endorse the banks they insure to begin tapping the large and growing illegal alien market for loans.

With the approval of the federal government, banks are authorized to accept an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) in lieu of a Social Security number when considering an application for a home mortgage or other types of loans. According to the FDIC, "Banks aren't legally required to verify legal status" of people applying for loans. Banks have also been at the forefront of the effort to allow potential customers to use foreign consular IDs to open accounts, and fought to have a provision barring their use stripped from last year's homeland security bill.

State governments are also getting in on the act of helping illegal aliens buy homes. Susan Tully, FAIR's National Field Director, and Wisconsin resident, appeared on CNN's Lou Dobbs Tonight program on August 9 to discuss that state's home loan program for illegal aliens. The Wisconsin State Housing Authority underwrites bank loans made to illegal aliens purchasing homes and encourages banks to lend to this population. These loans, for which the taxpayers are ultimately responsible, are being made to people who could potentially be deported at any time. Illinois is considering adoption of a similar policy.

Unlike legal residents with Social Security numbers whose credit histories for the past ten years can be considered when applying for a mortgage, illegal aliens with ITINs need only demonstrate a two-year credit history. Encouraging illegal aliens to enter the housing market will likely exacerbate already skyrocketing housing costs, at the expense of other first-time home buyers.

Book Review

Fighting Immigration Anarchy: American Patriots Battle to Save the Nation

Author, Daniel Sheehy

Daniel Sheehy's story, like that of many immigration reform activists, is born from personal experience. A journalist and media consultant who grew up in Southern California, Sheehy personally witnessed the impact of mass immigration on the region he calls home, but which increasingly feels like a strange land.

Putting his experience and talents as a journalist to good use, Sheehy details the devastating impact immigration run amok is having on Americans across the nation in his new book, *Fighting Immigration Anarchy: American Patriots Battle to Save the Nation* (Author House, 2005). Rather than finding an ally in their own government, Sheehy bemoans the fact that government at all levels has worked to promote illegal immigration. "Our elected officials created this disaster, voted to provide numerous incentives that encourage more immigration, favored aliens over American citizens, and taxed citizens to pay for all of it. The media deceived Americans about immigration and pushed the open-borders agenda. We were collectively duped and betrayed," writes Sheehy.

Even after the disaster of September 11, 2001, Sheehy notes, as Americans became alarmed about the vulnerability of our nation to terrorist attacks as a result of our poorly enforced immigration laws, our government continues to neglect this serious threat to our homeland security.

The book is not entirely about what is wrong with America's immigration policies, but rather about what is right with many patriotic Americans who are standing up to confront these disastrous policies. Sheehy profiles ordinary Americans who, at great personal sacrifice, devote their time, energies and money to changing our immigration policies and fighting our government's policy of neglect. *Fighting Immigration Anarchy* profiles individuals as diverse as members of Congress to a Los Angeles auto mechanic who today has a nationally syndicated radio program that gives voice to the discontent that many Americans feel about the current immigration chaos.

Fighting Immigration Anarchy can be ordered online or by phone from the publisher, Author House, AuthorHouse.com, or 1-888-280-7715. The book is also available online from Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

Floridians Socked with \$4.3 Billion a Year Bill for Illegal Immigration

A new report from FAIR estimates illegal immigration costs Florida taxpayers at least \$4.3 billion a year, and projects those costs will skyrocket to nearly \$8 billion a year within a decade unless illegal immigration is controlled. *The Costs of Illegal Immigration to Floridians* examines the impact of mass immigration on the state's public education, health care systems, and the cost of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens.

Using Census and other data, FAIR estimates the current size of Florida's illegal immigrant population to be 630,000 larger than the combined populations of Tampa and St. Petersburg.

According to the report, illegal immigration costs Floridians:

- More than \$4 billion annually to provide public education to the children of illegal aliens, who now constitute about 8.7 percent of the state's K-12 students.
- Approximately \$165 million a year in unreimbursed costs for health care.
- Approximately \$155 million a year from incarcerated illegal aliens in county and state jails and prisons.

The current \$4.3 billion price tag for these three program areas works out to an average of \$575 per native-headed household in the state. This represents about one-third of the state taxes paid by a family of four with a household income of \$50,000 a year. The taxes paid by illegal aliens in Florida are estimated to be less than \$1 billion annually.

The \$4.3 billion a year price tag would be much higher if other illegal immigration related costs were factored. The study is limited to just three program areas: public education, unreimbursed health care and incarceration. Other factors, including non-English-speaking students, housing assistance, law enforcement costs, lost tax revenues and many others likely make the cost to Florida much higher than \$4.3 billion a year.

A series of 1994 studies on the costs of illegal immigration conducted by the Urban Institute examined these three costs to seven states seeking federal reimbursement, providing a benchmark against which to examine the growth over the past decade. In 1994, the Urban Institute estimated the cost of providing these three programs to illegal aliens in Florida was about 9 percent of what it costs today.

The Florida report is the most recent in series of state cost studies carried out by FAIR's director of special projects, Jack Martin. Within the past year, FAIR also released similar studies detailing the costs of illegal immigration to [Arizonans](#), [Californians](#) and [Texans](#).

Federal Court Dismisses Illegal Aliens' Challenge to Proposition 200

FAIR Plays Key Role in Defending People's Initiative in Arizona

In a major victory for the voters of Arizona and the integrity of the referendum process, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a lawsuit brought by illegal aliens in Arizona challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 200 in an August 9 ruling. A three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based court ruled the plaintiffs lacked the "legal standing" necessary to challenge the initiative overwhelmingly approved by Arizona voters on November 2004.

Proposition 200 requires the state to verify the immigration status of people applying for benefits and service they are prohibited from receiving under federal law. In addition, the initiative requires all people registering to vote prove they are U.S. citizens, and present ID when they vote.

In 2004, FAIR worked closely with locally-based immigration reform activist groups to gather the signatures necessary to place the initiative on the ballot. Throughout the campaign, FAIR helped support passage of the proposition, including running ads in the local media. In spite of opposition by Arizona's leading politicians, including Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano and Republican Senator John McCain, the measure was approved by 54 percent of the voters.

Led by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the illegal alien lobby immediately filed suit in federal court on behalf of a group of illegal aliens and state government employees seeking to have Proposition 200 declared unconstitutional and bar its implementation. That challenge was dismissed late last year by Federal Judge David Bury. MALDEF immediately appealed Judge Bury's ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a terse ruling, the three judges hearing the case in the Ninth Circuit upheld Judge Bury's decision. "The district court record reveals that there was no case or controversy between the plaintiffs and the State of Arizona when pleadings were before the district court." The ruling goes on to state that, "Plaintiffs have not met their burden of demonstrating injury-in-fact."

FAIR, along with the Arizona-based Yes on Proposition 200, were among the key "Intervenors" filing legal briefs defending the voter-approved initiative. The lead attorney intervening on behalf of the voters of Arizona is Perry Pendley of the Lakewood, Colorado-based Mountain States Legal Foundation. Pendley worked closely with FAIR's staff attorney Michael Hethmon and Yes on 200's Randy Pullen in preparing legal briefs presented to the Ninth Circuit.

While celebrating this huge victory for the voters and taxpayers of Arizona, Pendley cautioned, "It's not the end. MALDEF, ACLU and the Mexican government intend to take this case all the way to the Supreme Court, and even to the United Nations."

Hethmon, who spearheads FAIR's expanded efforts to fight for the interests of American citizens in the courts, hailed the Ninth Circuit ruling as an important breakthrough. "In the past, MALDEF and other organizations of that ilk have gotten a free ride in the courts for their illegal alien clients," he explained. With this ruling, "citizens are seeing the tide turn in the legal war against lawless mass immigration."

While the Ninth Circuit has a reputation for being the most liberal court in the nation, this is the second time in a year they have sided with American citizens. In another recent Ninth Circuit decision in a case in which FAIR was involved, the San Francisco court upheld the right of citizens and legal resident aliens to sue employers of illegal aliens under the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

FAIR is also involved in a second lawsuit involving Proposition 200 in an Arizona state court. Together with Yes on 200, FAIR is seeking to force Governor Napolitano and Attorney General Terry Goddard to fully implement the decision of the state's voters. While the term "public benefit" is clearly defined under federal law, the governor and attorney general decided to restrict illegal aliens' access to only two government programs.

Federal Investigation Backs Up FAIR's Findings on Illegal Aliens' Use of Public Health Care

The latest in a series of FAIR studies examining the costs of illegal immigration finds Florida taxpayers are burdened with enormous bills for providing health care to this population. A new report by the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicates noncitizens, including illegal aliens, could potentially be using billions of dollars in government financed health care services they are specifically barred from receiving under 1996 congressional legislation.

The report issued in July by HHS's Inspector General Daniel R. Levinson indicates billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid funds are dispensed on the honor system. "Forty-seven states allow self-declaration of U.S. citizenship for Medicaid," states the OIG's report. The report goes on to note, "Twenty-seven states do not verify the accuracy of any U.S. citizenship statements as part of their post-eligibility quality control activities." In other words, a declaration of citizenship is accepted at face value. Of the 20 states that review attestations of citizenship, "nine did so for a nonrepresentative sample of the entire Medicaid population. Consequently, some groups that could pose vulnerability to Medicaid integrity were not included in the review sample.

The full OIG report is available online at: <http://oig.hhs.gov>.

Who Says We Need More Guest Workers?

Every New Job Created in the U.S. Since 2000 Has Gone to a Foreign Worker, Finds Study

While President Bush and his economic advisors met in Crawford, Texas in August to trumpet their accomplishments and promote the idea of admitting more foreign workers, public confidence in their own economic futures continues to decline. The economy is growing, but more and more Americans are being left behind.

A startling new report by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University sheds light on why so many Americans are not benefiting from economic growth. "The immigrant increase in employment is overwhelming. Every net new job created is taken by an immigrant. I know that's shocking, but that's the truth," said the Center's director, Andrew Sum.

Since 2000, about 3.7 million net new jobs were created by the U.S. economy and all of them have been filled by foreign workers, more than half of them believed to have entered the country illegally. Native-born workers have not even held their own during this period. The Center's report estimates there are some 600,000 fewer native-born workers in the labor force than there were five years ago. Younger workers, under the age of 30, are hardest hit by the mass influx of immigrant labor. In particular, the inability of teenagers to get part-time or summer jobs because employers prefer to hire foreign workers, may have long-range consequences for their future employability, warns the study.

The findings of the Northeastern University report are hardly a surprise to FAIR and immigration reform advocates who study the impact of mass legal and illegal immigration on American workers. FAIR published a series of reports and issue briefs detailing the displacement of American workers, wage loss and other effects of mass immigration on the labor market.

Legislative Roundup: *Coming this Fall...The Great Immigration Debate*

Fasten your seatbelts and hang onto your hats, because an epic debate is poised to be launched in the U.S. Capitol in September and October. The President says he wants immigration reforms enacted by Congress in September and he is recruiting a coalition, Americans for Border and Economic Security (our name for it is the Coalition to Destroy the American Middle Class), to launch a massive public relations campaign fleecing the American public into believing that amnesty somehow is not amnesty. Two competing bills have been introduced in the Senate: One of them by Sens. John McCain (R-AZ) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) will grant amnesty to all current resident illegal aliens willing to work as guest workers under their plan. Their bill also creates an unlimited guest worker program granting both the illegal alien participants and the new guest workers citizenship. The other bill, by Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX) and John Kyl (R-AZ) contains enforcement provisions, but also a broad new guest worker program. No one in either the House or Senate, however, believes the Cornyn-Kyl bill will emerge from the Senate without being turned into a garbage barge of amnesty-granting, guest worker-creating, and liberalizing immigration policies.

In the House, Republicans are divided on immigration with some wanting strong enforcement and others wanting guest workers for their business supporters. Speaker Hastert (R-IL) says he wants tough immigration legislation with a guest worker program and Majority Leader DeLay (R-TX) demands an immigration enforcement bill approved before even considering a guest worker program. Over the last several months, Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ) has been wining and dining various factions within Republican ranks to reach consensus on immigration. Meanwhile Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-CO) introduced a bill offering serious enforcement coupled with a guest worker program that cannot take effect until the enforcement provisions are implemented. All eyes remain fixed on Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), the author of the REAL ID Act and chairman of the Judiciary Committee who has near total jurisdiction over this issue.

FAIR recently developed the only truly comprehensive enforcement measure containing no guest worker provisions and our government relations team is meeting with key players on Capitol Hill to make sure it is introduced in the Fall.

Democrats are nearly unanimous in their desire for amnesty, guest workers, and open borders. In both Congress and the States, however, they are attempting to appear sympathetic to a public reaching the boiling point over the federal government's utter failure to secure the borders and halt illegal immigration and are blaming the President for the current chaos in immigration enforcement. Plus, they are lining up in favor of the McCain-Kennedy amnesty legislation. In the states at least two governors, Bill Richardson (D-NM) and Janet Napolitano (D-AZ) have declared border emergencies.

All of this, from the introduction of bills in the Senate to the posturing by both parties in the Congress and the States, is merely prelude to the upcoming debate. The political stakes are high for both Democrats and Republicans fearing public backlash in next year's elections. It is therefore incumbent on FAIR's members and activists to sign up for our weekly email updates and periodic legislative alerts. Without these, your voices will not be heard in a timely manner. Make no mistake about it, your voices must be heard loud and clear if we are to avoid another fiasco like the one in 1986 when the nation was lulled to sleep with the promise of enforcement (it never materialized) in exchange for the blanket amnesty. It has made all the difference in the current dangerous immigration situation.

Immigration High on Congress' Legislative Priority List...Maybe

With the summer recess over, Congress is back to work and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert says dealing with immigration policy will be second only in importance to completing work on the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. Hastert, who appears to be emerging as the Bush Administration's point man on immigration in the House, placed passage of an immigration bill ahead of Social Security reform. He, like the Bush Administration, is pushing for legalization of illegal aliens already in the U.S., and the creation of a massive guest worker program to allow employers to bring in untold additional foreign workers. The Speaker was very careful, however, not to call it an amnesty.

Not so fast, says House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. DeLay told the media before any immigration bills move through the House, the government needs to demonstrate that it is serious about enforcement. The Majority Leader favors legislation like that introduced by Rep. Tom Tancredo making immigration enforcement a prerequisite to any new guest worker proposals, and preclude amnesty for illegal aliens.

The Bush Administration has yet to endorse any of the immigration bills now floating around Capitol Hill and has indicated it may be crafting its own approach. So far, the two most likely vehicles for congressional action on immigration policy are the McCain-Kennedy bill and the Cornyn-Kyl bill. McCain-Kennedy, as discussed in the June Immigration Report, entails outright amnesty for nearly all illegal aliens in the U.S., and the admission of 400,000 new guest workers each year, who would eventually be eligible for permanent residence.

Senators John Cornyn (R-Tex.) and Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) introduced their own proposal in July. The Cornyn-Kyl legislation would require current illegal aliens to leave the country if they wished to return as guest workers. Their bill also calls for significant improvements in immigration enforcement. However, the government has a long track record of failing to carry out enforcement legislation passed by Congress.

That is why DeLay says he favors bills like the one introduced by Tancredo. Tancredo's bill, H.R. 3333, requires measurable security and enforcement goals be met before Congress even considers the admission of additional guest workers. These goals include lowering the absconder rate for illegal aliens to less than 5 percent, locating and removing at least 80 percent of visa overstayers within one year of overstaying, issuing biometric travel documents to all non-citizens and deploying 10,000 new Border Patrol agents.

In anticipation of a full-scale congressional debate over immigration policy this fall, FAIR published "The Seven Principles of Comprehensive Immigration Reform," which lays out the essential issues that must be addressed by Congress. This document will be an important reference for members of Congress and the media in evaluating any legislation that is debated in the coming months.

Making News: Senator Craig's Bill Attacks Idaho's Middle Class

The following op-ed by FAIR president Dan Stein appeared in the July 24 edition of the Idaho Falls Post Register. This opinion piece appeared opposite Idaho Senator Larry Craig (R), the prime sponsor of the AgJOBS legislation, granting amnesty to as many as one million illegal alien farm workers and allow agricultural interests to bring large numbers of additional guest workers.

The surest measurement of the availability of any commodity is its price. As anyone who has taken Economics 101 knows, when a commodity is in short supply the price goes up. When there is abundance, the price goes down.

Given the clamor by some in Congress, including Idaho's Sen. Larry Craig, for large increases in the number of foreign guest workers admitted to the U.S. every year, one would reasonably assume that wages for most American workers are rising precipitously. As every middle class American knows, they are not. In fact, for many American workers, particularly those in blue collar trades, wages stagnated or even declined in recent years.

Nowhere is this trend more evident than in agriculture, where real wages are about one-third lower than they were in 1980 (and they weren't exactly extravagant back then). Nevertheless, Craig has been the leading sponsor a measure to further flood the market with agricultural guest workers. Since labor represents only about 10 percent of the cost for agricultural products, even a significant increase in wages for farm workers would have only a marginal effect on what we pay at the supermarket.

Mass immigration is one of the key reasons for declining wages for many in this country. Between record legal immigration and growing numbers of illegal immigrants settling in this country, we are now adding about 1.7 million people to our population every year. To put that figure in perspective, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the current population of Idaho is about 1.4 million.

In addition to this unprecedented number of permanent immigrants, we admitted some 684,000 "guest workers" along with 155,000 of their dependent family members in 2004, a large percentage of whom will remain permanently. Yet this still is not enough to satisfy the demands of cheap labor interests in the U.S. President Bush insists we need still more foreign workers to "do jobs Americans will not do," while senior members of Congress have introduced legislation that would vastly expand the number of guest workers and grant amnesty to many or all of the estimated 12 million illegal aliens in the U.S.

Far from doing "jobs Americans will not do," millions of illegal aliens and guest workers are doing jobs that Americans used to do until relatively recently, and would gladly do again if they were given the opportunity to earn a decent wage.

Under the expanded guest worker programs being supported by the White House and some in Congress, employers would never have to sweeten the pot by offering better wages and benefits to attract workers. Rather, they would be free to seek foreign guest workers who are willing to accept whatever the employer wants to pay. Moreover, the rest of us would then be required to chip in for the cost of health care and education for the children of these low wage guest workers.

If we are to preserve the middle class in this country, we must cut back on record levels of immigration, enforce laws against illegal immigration and allow guest workers to be hired only when there is a certifiable shortage of qualified worker — not a shortage of workers prepared to work at depressed wages. The purpose of U.S. immigration policy is to protect the interests of American workers, not provide a ready supply of low wage labor to a small number of powerful business interests.

America is in dire need of comprehensive immigration reform that reflects the social and economic interests of the American people. This cannot be accomplished by placing the imprimatur of legality on the current flow of illegal immigrants and calling them “guest workers.” Comprehensive immigration reform means reducing overall levels of immigration, meaningful enforcement of laws against illegal immigration, and limiting access to guest workers by employers who simply want to avoid paying better wages.

Supporters of new guest worker and amnesty programs promise these programs will include strong enforcement components. Of course, they have been making the same promise ever since 1986, when we granted what was supposed to have been a one-time-only amnesty to some 3 million illegal aliens. We have heard similarly empty promises about ensuring that guest workers will not be used to undermine American workers. Yet President Clinton’s first secretary of Labor, Robert Reich, admitted the existing system was being massively abused.

It is time for the politicians who profess concern for the middle class to demonstrate their empathy by reducing legal and illegal immigration, and limiting guest worker programs, so American workers can reclaim many of the jobs and wages that have been lost to illegal aliens and lower wage guest workers. It is time for American employers to attract the workers they need the good old-fashioned way: by offering competitive wages and benefits, not by lobbying Washington for more workers from abroad.

Reformer Corner

Joyce Mucci

FAIR works to educate, inform, and coordinate a national network of immigration reformers and community leaders who, in turn, work for change in their own communities. We invite FAIR members to include short accounts of how they got involved and share their successes with others working for this cause.

Like most Americans the immigration issue became front and center after the attacks on September 11. It was during this unsettling time in our country that I was working as the Public Relations Coordinator for the International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL) located in Arlington, Virginia. After 9/11 the cruise industry took a nosedive and I decided it was time to return home to Kansas City. It wasn't long after that that our local university held a free forum on immigrants' rights. During the forum I learned — for the first time — that there was a vast network of organizations pushing for expansion of rights for people who had no right to be in this country. It was a concept completely foreign to me! A quick search on Google led me to FAIR and to [national field director] Susan Tully.

Since that event — with the support of FAIR and many others — I have been working on trying to close a city-funded day laborer center, lobbying the state legislature, writing opinion pieces and speaking to small groups of committed citizens. It has been a long — and sometimes — frustrating process. However, in the last year things are finally turning around. Statewide our little group of activists has been successful in stopping an in-state tuition bill for two years in row. Additionally, we were successful in helping pass two laws in Missouri that require proof of citizenship before registering to vote and getting a driver's licenses. My goals this year are to keep the pressure on our elected officials and to bring the message that illegal immigration is not just an issue that affects the border states. It's an issue that touches the quality of life of people in Missouri.

A New Look for Your Immigration Report

Dear FAIR Member,

By now you have probably figured out that we are making a few changes at FAIR. Our organizational logo is new, so is our legislative action center, the Stein Report blog, the look of our publications and reports, and as you can plainly see, your FAIR Immigration Report.

Frankly, it was time for a change. FAIR is moving forward on a lot of fronts to keep you, our members and supporters, better informed so you are able to do a better job promoting this important cause. Every day brings new challenges on a variety of fronts, and FAIR will be ready to meet them all.

The newly expanded Immigration Report allows us to add more graphics along with important highlights. The larger format allows us to reprint important opinion pieces from leading thinkers and include your thoughts and opinions. We welcome your comments, observations, and ideas.

With the immigration debate raging across the country, the number of books about the subject is proliferating. Those making an important contribution to the body of knowledge about immigration and its impact on this country will be highlighted and reviewed in the new FAIR Immigration Report.

FAIR also produces and publishes a wealth of research information used extensively by the media and people in government that we feel should also be in the hands of our members and supporters. The added capacity of the Immigration Report allows us to publish excerpts of FAIR's research materials and gets them into your hands.

We rely on the support and generosity of our members to carry on the important work we are doing to promote the cause of immigration reform. The "new" Immigration Report, like the previous one, includes a simple response envelope. As we endeavor to keep you informed about all of the things FAIR is doing in this effort, we hope you will take this opportunity to renew your support to this cause. If you agree this work is critical to the future of our nation, and we have earned your continued support, I hope you will continue to help the organization with your donations and let your friends and colleagues know what they can do as well.

I look forward to your feedback.

Dan Stein
President

Outrage of the Month: ***Free Speech in Southern California?***

Carlsbad, California — When State Senator Bill Morrow (R-Oceanside) decided to hold a meeting with his constituents at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center to discuss “The Illegal Immigration Crisis” in north San Diego County, he was told “no” by officials of the local school district that runs the Center. The school district’s Superintendent John Roach, fearing violence if the subject of illegal immigration was discussed, told the senator he would have to meet with taxpayers elsewhere. The forum, hosted by San Diego radio talk show host Roger Hedgecock and featuring Rep. Tom Tancredo and Minuteman Project organizer James Gilchrist, threatened to upset illegal aliens and their advocacy groups. It took the threat of a lawsuit by Senator Morrow to convince the Carlsbad Unified School District to change its mind and permit the meeting to go forward. The meeting was held on August 11 with an estimated 500-600 protesters and some 300 local police in riot gear stationed outside. Thankfully, there was no violence.