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## FAIR Affiliate Uncovers: 39 Million Instances of Fraudulently Used Social Security Numbers

**A** Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit by the Immigration Reform Law Institute (IRLI) against the Social Security Administration (SSA) revealed that between 2012 and 2016 there were 39 million instances in which valid Social Security numbers (SSNs) were used fraudulently. IRLI is the public interest legal affiliate of FAIR.

According to the information uncovered by IRLI's FOIA suit, there were 39 million instances where names and SSNs

on W-2 tax forms did not match the corresponding Social Security records. Potentially, one in every eight Americans were affected by this fraud. Additionally, more than \$409 billion was added to the Earnings Suspense File (ESF), which holds uncredited wages that can't be correctly matched to SSA's database. From 1937 to 2005, \$519 billion was reported to be sitting in the ESF. In tax year 2016, that number rose to over \$1.5 trillion.

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## FAIR's Annual "Feet to the Fire" Radio Row Sets Industry Records, Reaches Millions

**F**AIR's annual Hold Their Feet to the Fire (F2F) radio row attracted the largest number of talk radio hosts and the most impressive roster of guests in the 12 years FAIR has been putting on this event. F2F 2018 was held on September 5 and 6, occupying four ballrooms of a Washington, D.C., hotel, just blocks from the U.S. Capitol.

Over the course of the two days, 65 national and local talk radio hosts devoted their programs to discussing all aspects of U.S. immigration policy and its likely



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## FRAUD *continued from page 1*

The time period in which this dramatic uptick in the fraudulent use of valid SSNs occurred coincided with the Obama administration's decision to halt sending "no-match" letters to employers. The long-held practice of sending the letters had been used to prevent fraud through the use of stolen SSN data by illegal aliens and other criminals. A "no-match" letter informs employers and employees, usually in response to an employee W-2 wage report, that the name or SSN reported by the employer did not match a name or SSN combination reflected in SSA's records.

The Obama administration decided to discontinue the decades-old practice of "no-match" letters within eight days after it implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) amnesty for illegal aliens. The likely reason for the Obama administration's action was to protect DACA applicants from the legal consequences of past use of false SSNs. The SSA has estimated



Image: istock | idealistock

that three out of every four illegal aliens possess an SSN that belongs to somebody else.

The termination of no-match letters resulted in a thriving black market where illegal aliens obtain the SSNs of U.S. citizens in order to gain employment. The SSNs of young children are especially sought after by illegal aliens, as this theft is likely to go undetected for years. (They should also be the easiest to flag. Kindergarteners are generally not employed.) As children reach late teenage years and apply for credit to purchase cars, obtain student loans, and other needs, they may find that their credit has been compromised with mortgages, credit cards, and criminal records attached to their identities. Moreover, countless taxpayers are left every year trying to defend themselves, at great expense, against IRS audits for not reporting all earned income.

Immigration fraud is only one factor contributing to the growth of identity theft. Millions of those who had their identities stolen were victims of economic crimes of opportunity

made possible by our government's systemic failure to safeguard vital documents and data.

Not only were employers not informed when the SSNs provided by workers did not match the information in SSA's records, but the people whose numbers were being fraudulently used were left in the dark. Though not all fraudulent use of SSNs is immigration related, the deliberate policies designed to ignore widespread identity theft were likely intended to enable illegal aliens to easily live and work in the United States. A 2012 investigative report by WTHR-TV in Indianapolis looking into identity theft revealed that the IRS was instructed to regard the practice of illegal aliens using valid SSNs issued to other people not as theft, but as "borrowing," even though the people whose numbers were used never consented or knew about it.

The Trump administration announced this summer that it was resuming notice letters to employers and third-party providers to inform them about mismatches and to pro-

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## FRAUD *concludes from page 2*

vide information about SSA's services, which includes filing tips. In the spring of 2019, SSA will send notices to every employer that files any 2018 W-2 form with a name and SSN mismatch so that they can make corrections. Undoing the damage caused by rampant identity theft will be a much more formidable task.

The widespread fraudulent use of SSNs uncovered by the IRLI lawsuit, many of which entailed immigration fraud, provides further evidence that illegal immigration is not a "victimless crime." In this four-year period there were potentially 39 million victims, most of whom are not even aware that they had been victimized. Identity theft

is a pernicious crime that can cause victims grievous financial harm, destroy reputations, and years of aggravation and expense to clear up. All the more galling is that the government willingly put millions of unsuspecting Americans in a position to have their identities stolen in order to benefit and protect illegal aliens. ■

## Twitter Decides, Then Reverses, that the Term "Illegal Alien" is Banned

There has been a concerted effort to eradicate the use of the legally correct term "illegal alien" to describe a foreign citizen who is in the United States without authorization. Bowing to pressure from advocacy groups, major news organizations have replaced this legally accurate term with euphemisms such as "undocumented immigrant," even though millions of them are using fraudulent documents and being an immigrant is not a self-bestowed designation.

But now important social media companies are not satisfied with sanitizing the English language themselves; they are demanding that users adopt their inaccurate, but politically correct terms. The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), a preeminent immigration research organization whose information and analysis is widely cited, had four paid ads rejected in September by Twitter because the company considered them to be hate speech.

Among the four rejected ads was one promoting a video showing illegal aliens dressed in camouflage and carrying large backpacks across the border unimpeded. The others referred to illegal aliens who committed criminal acts in the United States, including murder.

Twitter's explanation for why the ads were rejected was that they violated the company's vague and selectively enforced standards. "We've reviewed your tweets and confirmed that it is ineligible to participate in the Twitter Ads program at this time based on our Hateful Content policy. Violating content includes, but is not limited to, that which is hate speech or advocacy against a protected group," explained the company.



In other words, illegal aliens are a "protected group," and advocating that people who violate our immigration laws should be held accountable (much less be described accurately) constitutes "hateful content." As CIS noted in response to having their ads blocked, "House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte said [at a recent congressional hearing] that social media platforms need to 'do a better job explaining how they make decisions to filter content and the rationale for why they do so.'" Censoring the use of a proper legal term would seem to be a clear case of a powerful social media company infringing on free speech and expression of ideas. ■



# Hold Their Feet to the Fire 2018

F2F *continued from page 1*

impact on the 2018 midterm elections. In an age in which much of the mainstream media refuses to even acknowledge the American public's stake in immigration policy, talk radio provides an important forum for unfiltered discussion of timely immigration issues.

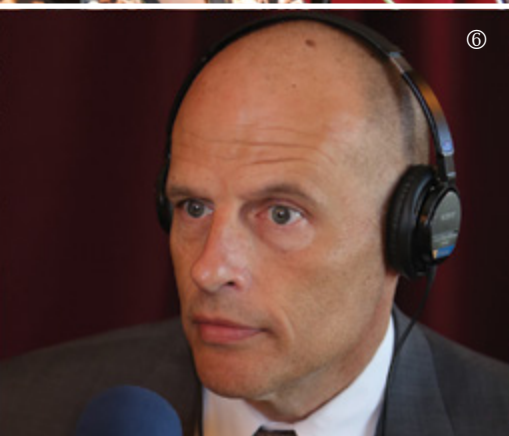
This year's event featured policy experts, families whose lives have been tragically affected by unenforced immigration laws, dozens of members of Congress who stopped by to speak directly to constituents, and law enforcement professionals including Border Patrol agents and sheriffs. The dozens of sheriffs, from nearly every state held a Capitol Hill news conference to discuss the public safety dangers posed by unsecured borders and lax immigration enforcement. The sheriffs also met with President Trump and Vice President Pence at the White House.

The overwhelming success of F2F 2018 was a direct result of countless hours of work by FAIR staff, the talk radio hosts, an impressive guest list, and the flawless work of the audio engineers who made sure everyone got on the air without a hitch.

① FAIR President Dan Stein, ② Diamond and Silk ③ Angel Mom Mary Ann Mendoza, ④ Rep. Lou Barletta and Sheriff Carolyn "Bunny" Welsh. ⑤ Host Scott James and Tom Homan – former Head of ICE, ⑥ Ron Vitiello—Acting Head of ICE, ⑦ Ann Coulter. ⑧ Host Tara Servatius and Sheriff Tom Hodgson, ⑨ Rep. Bradley Byrne, ⑩ host Rob Schilling and daughter, ⑪ Sam Abed—Mayor of Escondido, CA, ⑫ Host Julie Mason and Sen. Jim Risch, ⑬ Rep. Clay Higgins and FAIR staffer Heather Ham-Warren







## Showing Up at the Border with a Child Amounts to a Get Out of Jail Free Card

**B**y the end of August, a month before the end of the Federal government's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the Border Patrol had apprehended 90,563 family units—adults traveling in the company of minors—attempting to enter the United States illegally. These numbers eclipse the levels of family units entering the country illegally at the height of the so-called “border surge” of 2014 and 2015. When September's numbers are in the books, FY 2018 will likely exceed FY 2017's record of 95,000 family units apprehended by the Border Patrol.

Nearly 13,000 family units were apprehended in August alone, after the Trump administration's “zero-tolerance” policy for illegal entry was terminated and catch-and-release policies were effectively reinstated. “Zero-tolerance,” which had begun to stem the tide of illegal immigration in the late-spring and early-summer months, became a target of relentless attacks by mass immigration advocacy groups, the media, and politicians. August's levels represented a 38 percent increase over July's.

It is easy to see why the end of “zero-tolerance” resulted in a renewed surge of both families with children and unaccompanied minors (UAMs). Of the nearly 95,000 Central American family units apprehended in FY 2017, 98.6 percent are still in the country. A similar percentage of UAMs who entered illegally in FY 2018 remain here.

The renewed surge of illegal migration in August was entirely predictable and a direct consequence of reverting to catch-and-release policies asserted Kevin McAleenan, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. “These are a very direct response to the vulnerabilities in our legal framework,” he said. Brandon Judd, president of the union representing Border Patrol agents, laid blame for the renewed surge of families with children and UAMs squarely at the feet of Congress. “Congress obviously didn't pass laws to close loopholes and the



Image: istock | martince2

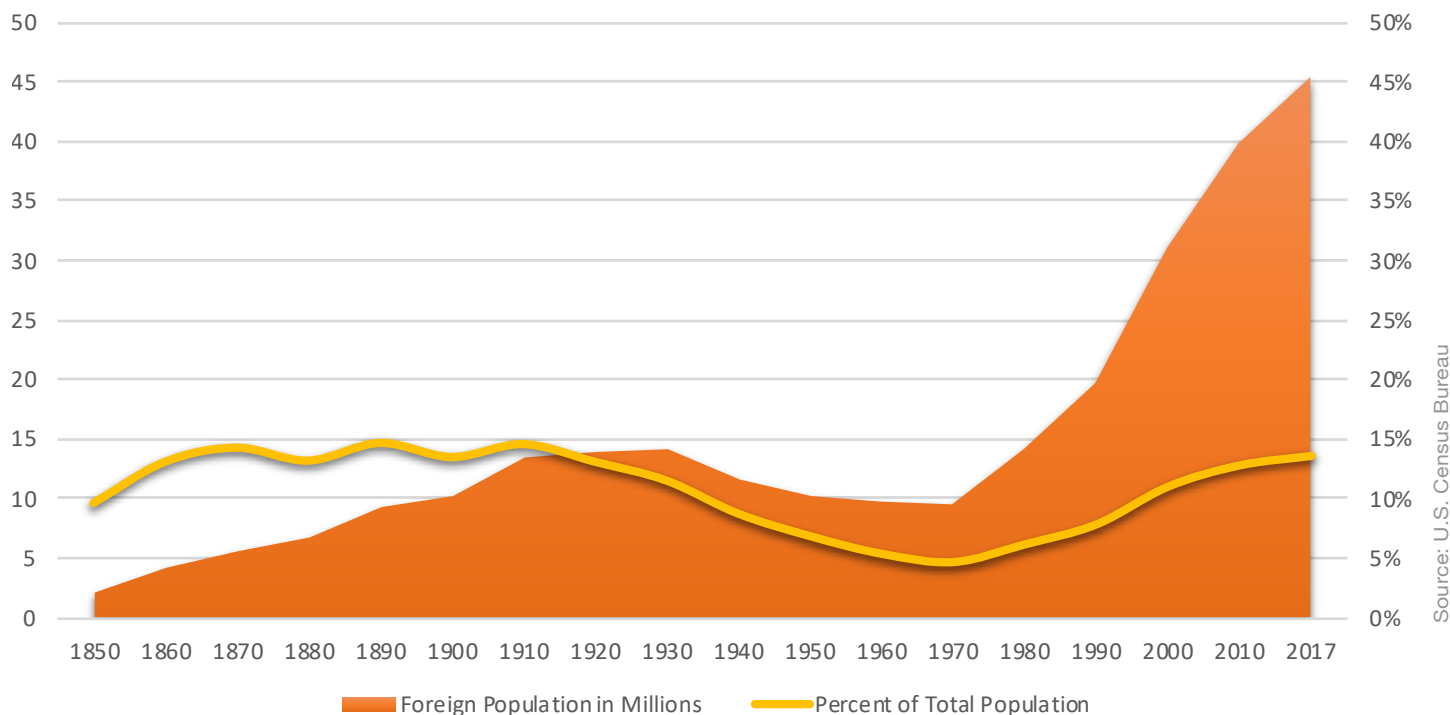
agency failed to implement policies or operations supporting the president's vision. Instead, the agency's inaction made the president's tough talk seem like nothing more than words that can be ignored,” Judd said.

In early September, the administration again initiated efforts to end catch-and-release and curb the mass border incursions. The administration filed proposed regulation to terminate a court order, known as the Flores Settlement Agreement, that prohibits the detention of families with children from being detained for longer than 20 days. Under the proposed rule, the government would detain entire families for the duration of the legal proceedings that determine if they can stay.

However, the rule cannot go into effect until early November, and will almost certainly be the subject of numerous legal challenges from groups dedicated to maintaining unlimited immigration.



## U.S. Foreign Born Population Now Highest Since 1910



According to new Census Bureau data, foreign born residents of the United States comprised 13.7 percent of the population in 2017, or about 45 million people. That figure represents the highest proportion of foreign born since 1910.

The Census data also indicates a shift in migration patterns in recent years. While half of all immigrants in the United States hail from Latin America, Asia has been the largest source of newcomers since 2010. Forty-one percent of new arrivals since the start of the decade come from Asia, led by immigrants from China and India. In all, about 3 million people from Asia have settled in the U.S. in the 2010s.

Latin America still represents a hefty 39 percent share of new migration to the U.S. About 1.2 million people from that region have entered the country this decade.

The new high water mark for foreign born residents raises the question of when is enough enough? What is the optimal level of foreign born residents in the population? If diversity is a goal (as it seems to be for immigration enthusiasts), how do we determine when that goal is achieved? As the foreign born population steadily climbs, how do we ensure that the nation remains cohesive?

It is clear that for the mass immigration advocates, there can never be enough. As Ali Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum, stated

without evidence, “It’s pretty clear the future of America’s growth and prosperity relies on immigration.” In reality, it is America’s prosperity that attracts mass immigration—people tend not to move to impoverished, dysfunctional countries.

But what is more disturbing is that our political leadership has not given any consideration to these important questions. This refusal to even ask questions about the long-term effects of mass immigration on the receiving societies has been the hallmark of policymakers in the United States and other developed nations that have experienced unprecedented levels of immigration in recent decades. Moreover, this dramatic increase in the foreign born population has occurred without the consent of the American people or the people of other nations experiencing similar phenomena.

The revelation that in both absolute numerical terms and, as a percentage of our population, immigration has now reached levels not seen in living memory should at least spark some rational discussion about what the national interest goals of our immigration policies are. We can (and do) have perpetual debates about “immigration reform,” but until we define a clear goal for what we hope to achieve and how immigration can best serve the best interests of the nation, these debates are, at best, pointless.

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## Support FAIR in the 2018 Combined Federal Campaign!

The fight against illegal immigration and out-of-control immigration policies is a joint effort and one we would not be able to do without your generous support. Through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Federal employees from all over the country can easily make a tax deductible donation by payroll deduction, credit card, check or cash.

The Immigration problems we face in the U.S. have never been bigger. Your support of FAIR is needed now more than ever. The CFC is the largest workplace giving campaign in the world and an opportunity for you to join with other like-minded Americans to have a major impact on immigration reform.

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