

Oregonians for Immigration Reform  
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## ***OFIR Newsletter, October 2009***

**The next meeting for OFIR members and supporters will be held at 1:00 p.m., on Saturday, November 14, in Salem, at the Best Western Mill Creek Inn, 3125 Ryan Dr. SE, located across the street from Costco, just off of Mission St. See driving directions at end. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.**

On Nov. 14, the biennial election of officers will be held for the term November 2009-November 2011. According to the OFIR Bylaws, the OFIR Board of Directors shall consist of the four Officers, one Director elected by a majority of members present at the Annual Meeting, and up to 10 others to be appointed by the Board. The members at the annual meeting shall elect officers and one member of the Board. Members have the opportunity to make additional nominations for any office. All OFIR officers and Board members serve without compensation.

Candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee are:

President – Jim Ludwick; Vice President – Ted Campbell; Treasurer – Roy Duncan; Secretary – Linda Ciavara

OFIR Vice-President Rick Hickey resigned in May for family and personal reasons. He contributed much to OFIR, and we look forward to his return to active membership in future. Thanks to Lyneil Vandermolen for serving in the interim. Many OFIR members already know Ted Campbell, who has worked with Oregon Minutemen for several years and has coordinated a number of demonstrations for OFIR. Our President, Treasurer and Secretary have agreed to continue for another term.

### **Other items likely to be on the agenda:**

1. Reports on OFIR activities of the past year; financial report.
2. Town Halls of 2009; Congressional bills; E-Verify
3. Strategy for our continuing battle against illegal immigration and to stop amnesty efforts
4. Unemployment, environmental sustainability, and the need for reductions in legal immigration

### **WRAP-UP OF THE 2009 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The 2009 Session of the Legislature adjourned on June 29 without passing any substantive legislation to control illegal immigration. On the positive side, a bill, HB 2939, to give in-state tuition to illegal aliens was resoundingly defeated without ever reaching the floor of either

chamber. OFIR played a major role in its defeat; members turned out in force at the hearing before the House Committee on Education on April 13. Pres. Ludwick and several members spoke against the bill. Large numbers of OFIR members called and emailed in protest of the bill, and by May 4 the Speaker of the House was emailing back that it was “highly unlikely that this bill will move forward during the 2009 session.”

OFIR made strong efforts to bring attention to HB 2708, requiring Oregon employers to use E-Verify to verify the work eligibility of all new employees. We were hopeful at first because the chair of the House Committee on Business and Labor was enthusiastic, and the Committee itself actually sponsored the bill. However, House Leadership routed the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary for consideration, where it was buried without further action and died on adjournment.

Another bill pushed by OFIR, HB 3364, Rapid REPAT, also garnered broad sponsorship. A Hearing by the Judiciary Committee was held on April 14, at which OFIR Pres. Ludwick and other OFIR members testified. However, there was no further action on the bill, which would have allowed the transfer of certain illegal alien prisoners to the federal government for early release and deportation, under the federal program titled “Rapid Removal of Eligible Parolees Accepted for Transfer.” Oregon taxpayers are burdened with over \$35 million a year in costs of incarceration for criminal aliens. Some of the cost could be reduced by releasing less violent offenders to the federal government for deportation.

The Legislature passed, on 6/29, the last day of the session, HB 2815, “Relating to compliance with laws relating to the conduct of business ...” which requires state agencies to work together to track businesses that pay employees in cash. Such oversight supposedly could identify businesses that hire illegal workers, don’t pay taxes and make it hard for law-abiding employers to compete. It remains to be seen how useful this bill will be.

A Special Session of the Legislature is expected to be held early next year, and OFIR will be watching for opportunities to advance programs against illegal immigration.

## **RALLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN OREGON**

On April 15, OFIR participated in the **TEA Party rally** in Salem, manning a much-visited table with immigration control literature and talking to attendees, all of whom appreciated OFIR’s work. Several signed up to be on the OFIR mailing list. OFIR VP Rick Hickey was one of the many speakers at the event. Later, OFIR also cooperated in the July 4 TEA Party patriotic celebration of Independence Day

On May 15, OFIR led a large demonstration outside of **Wendy’s Restaurant in Gladstone**, where a young employee had been raped by an illegal alien also working at Wendy’s. Emphasis at the demonstration was on the need for all employers to use E-Verify for verification of legal status of their workers. There were many colorful signs such as “Don’t Buy Where They Don’t

E-Verify". Lots of passers-by joined in the picketing, cars honked and people raised thumbs-up. TV cameras came and the news was carried on KATU and other stations.

On June 13, OFIR and OR Minutemen picketed at the **Day Labor site in Cornelius**, against the hiring of illegal aliens by drive-by employers, at a time when unemployment is so widespread among citizens.

In August OFIR sent numerous email alerts to members urging attendance at the **Town Halls** being held in various towns by Oregon's U.S. Senators and Representatives, and giving talking points to use with the legislators. Many OFIR members responded. Some were able to raise questions about coverage of illegal aliens by the health care bills.

Nine OFIR members went to the **Hold Their Feet to the Fire Rally in Washington DC**, Sept. 14-16, sponsored by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). Our delegation was led by Lee Vasché, Co-Director and Treasurer of the OFIR PAC. The group visited the Congressional offices of Sen. Merkley, Rep. DeFazio, and Rep. Walden. Sen. Merkley and his staff held a long, respectful interview with our delegates. The OFIR group had made an appointment with Sen. Wyden 2 months in advance but Wyden cancelled at the last minute with inadequate explanation. A somewhat more detailed account of the trip was sent to the OFIR email list. All in the group were thrilled to be in Washington and meet other reformists from all over the country as well as famous national radio talk-show hosts and participate in their programs.

## **CONGRESSIONAL ACTION**

Most of Congress' work recently has centered around **health care bills**. These are of interest to OFIR because illegal aliens could be covered; OFIR opposes inclusion of illegal aliens in any health care measures. Problems have arisen from the ambiguous, contradictory language of the bills. The main one under discussion, H.R. 3200, says that illegal aliens are not covered; however, there are no provisions for verification of citizenship or legal status, and some sections seem to mandate coverage for all regardless of legal status. Attempts by patriotic legislators to add amendments calling for verification were rejected in two House Committees that were considering the bill, almost entirely along party line votes, with most Democrats rejecting verification and Republicans voting in favor of verification.

Please make it clear to your U.S. Representative and to Senators Wyden and Merkley that you want health care plans to cover citizens and not illegal aliens. A September Rasmussen poll shows that 83% of voters nationwide say that people should be required to prove they are a citizen of the U.S. before receiving government health care subsidies. Still, some in Congress continue to try devious methods of including illegals while claiming illegals will not be covered.

As explained in the OFIR April Newsletter, the **E-Verify program was set to expire at the end of September unless re-authorized by Congress**. At this writing (9/30) the program has been

extended through Oct. 31. E-Verify is an Internet based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in partnership with the Social Security Administration (SSA) that allows participating employers to electronically verify the employment eligibility of their newly hired employees.

E-Verify is free and voluntary and is the best means available for determining employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security Numbers. The E-Verify program is in a precarious status now, while different re-authorization moves by the House and Senate remain to be reconciled. The House extended the program for two more years, by voice vote on June 12, as part of the DHS appropriations package for fiscal year 2010. On July 8, by voice vote, the Senate passed an amendment to the same bill that would permanently reauthorize the program, and another amendment on July 9, also by voice vote, that would give employers who are enrolled in E-Verify the option to use the program to check the work authorization status of existing employees in addition to new hires. The DHS Appropriations Bill as of now (9/30) is before a Conference Committee responsible for reconciling differences between the House and Senate versions. The Conference Committee could drop any or all of the amendments.

Please ask your legislators to urge Conference Committee members to re-authorize E-Verify permanently and keep the amendment giving employers option to check status of all their employees.

### **AMNESTY THREAT RISES AGAIN**

Amnesty proponents are always on the ready to push their agenda, and they now have a powerful ally in the White House. President Obama, while announcing support for verification of legal status to receive health care benefits, also repeated his desire for immediate amnesty to the 11-20+ illegal aliens in this country. Only the concerted, strong opposition of citizens can stop the current amnesty movement, but working together, citizens can turn back this assault on the sovereignty, economic, social, and environmental well-being of our country. The history of amnesties from 1986 to date proves that amnesties lead inevitably to even greater illegal immigration and a breakdown of respect for law, which is the foundation of a civilized society. Furthermore, U.S population, now at over 307 million, is already far in excess of environmental carrying capacity; overcrowding and congestion are problems in nearly every city. Population density is rapidly increasing everywhere. Immigration levels must be reduced, and would-be immigrants worldwide must believe that U.S. immigration laws are strictly enforced.

### **HOW TO WORK FOR SENSIBLE IMMIGRATION POLICIES**

Congress is the source of immigration laws. Immigration laws are administered through the Executive Branch of the government, i.e., the President, his Cabinet, and Departments and agencies of the federal government under the President's supervision. The Department of Homeland Security includes the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. CIS oversees lawful immigration to the United States

of America; it “adjudicates” (decides upon) the petitions and applications of potential immigrants. ICE’s mission is to protect national security by enforcing our nation’s customs and immigration laws.

It is critical to elect legislators to Congress who will work for adequate immigration controls. Unfortunately, Oregon has only 3 legislators in Congress who even rate a “B” grade from Americans for Better Immigration. Here are their current grades: **Senator Merkley, C-; Senator Wyden, F; Rep. Blumenauer, F-; Rep. DeFazio, B; Rep. Schrader, A-; Rep. Walden, B; Rep. Wu, F.** Sen. Merkley and Rep. Schrader have been in office only since Jan. 2009 and don’t yet have long records of votes as do the others. For example, Sen. Wyden has been in Congress since January 1981, thus his grade, F, truly reflects his views and actions on immigration issues.

We must find citizens who can win seats in Congress and will work for sensible immigration policies. Meanwhile, we need to continue communication with present legislators and attempt to persuade or educate them in the right directions. Sometimes politicians respond to citizen input.

### **OFIR E-MAIL ALERTS**

Those of you who have E-mail are aware of the numerous email alerts that we have sent out almost on a daily basis. The messages have kept members up to date with current news about the impact of illegal immigration on the criminal justice system, public education, health care and livability. Also, email enables us to send alerts at strategic times when legislative or administrative actions are pending, so members can call or fax their opinions to the appropriate officials. Please forward any changes in your email address to OFIR promptly, at [ofir@oregonir.org](mailto:ofir@oregonir.org).

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### **WHY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS ISN’T THE SOLUTION**

In recent years, there have two attempts in Congress to pass amnesty for illegal aliens. Fortunately we defeated both attempts. Average Americans by an overwhelming majority oppose rewarding those who have broken our immigration laws with one of our most precious gifts, American citizenship.

The old term for amnesty was “Comprehensive Immigration Reform.” The new term for amnesty is “Pathway to citizenship.” Both terms were invented to cloak the real purposes and effects of the associated bills—amnesty to millions of illegal aliens and lax to no enforcement of immigration laws.

Oregonians for Immigration Reform support **attrition through enforcement** as the most effective, humane, and least costly means of reducing illegal immigration. Mandatory use of E-

Verify by all employers for both new and current employees would eliminate the jobs magnet drawing illegal immigrants and cause those already here to self-deport.

Amnesty would add 10's of millions of poor people to our society.

If Congress were to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform (amnesty), not only would 10 to 20 million or more amnestied illegal aliens be allowed to remain in the U.S. and become citizens, they will be able to sponsor their parents and relatives to join them here as immigrants. Each one of them in turn will be able to sponsor their own parents, brothers and sisters as immigrants. Do we really need 20 to 40 million more poorly educated and unskilled workers added to our population?

Oregon's unemployment rate is over 12 %. Over 250,000 Oregonians are out of work

Nationwide 14.5 million Americans have lost their jobs, over 450,000 in August alone. Does it make any sense that Americans have to compete for jobs against illegal aliens?

According to the August Jobs report:

There are now 6 workers available for every job opening; up from 1.7 workers per opening when the recession began in December 2007.

Illegal aliens commit crimes at double the rate that one would expect from their cohort.

27 % of the inmates in federal prison are non-citizens. There are about 1200 inmates in the Oregon State Penitentiary system who have ICE holds, costing Oregon taxpayers over \$35 million a year in incarceration costs alone. The human cost to Americans who have had crimes committed to them by illegal aliens is impossible to calculate. We do not need more criminals coming into our country.

An amnesty sends the message that it is okay to break the law.

One of the most important tenets of American society is the concept of the rule of law. We expect everyone from the president to the newest citizen to obey our laws. An amnesty says that eventually you will be forgiven, even rewarded for breaking the law.

Tell Congress and President Obama: NO AMNESTIES!

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**OBAMA SUN. TALK SHOWS: NEED TO HAVE 150,000 NEW JOBS A MONTH FOR GROWING POPULATION (BUT NO MENTION TO 160,000 FOREIGN WORKERS)**

By Roy Beck, Founder & CEO of NumbersUSA, Monday, September 21, 2009, 10:58 AM EDT

That was quite an admission by the President on yesterday's talk shows about having to create 150,000 jobs each month to keep up with the growing working population. Do you suppose we now have a chance of getting him to question why we are giving out 160,000 new green cards and new temporary work permits each month to working-age foreigners?

Here is what he said on CNN:

"I think we'll be adding jobs, but you need 150,000 additional jobs each month just to keep pace with a growing population," the president said. "So if we're only adding 50,000 jobs, that's a great reversal from losing 700,000 jobs [a month] early this year -- but, you know, it means that we've still got a ways to go. - President Obama

Wow!

What the President was saying is that his Administration and our economy have to swim uphill to stop unemployment from getting worse. Not only do they have to end the elimination of jobs, but they have to add net new jobs faster than the labor force is growing.

He could improve his numbers immediately by doing something about the 160,000 new green cards and new temporary work permits his Administration is giving out each month. We have been crying out since last November for first Pres. Bush and now Pres. Obama to tackle this.

According to the latest government statistics, we are giving out 35,000 green cards each month to permanent immigrants above the age of 18. In addition, those stats show we're giving out 125,000 temporary work permits to first time foreign guest workers. That adds up to 160,000. About 35,000 of the green cards go to foreign workers who were already here on temporary work permits, so the net new workers each month is more like around 125,000. Nonetheless, there actually are 160,000 foreign workers in play each month that Pres. Obama could decide to postpone.

Please use our Action Buffet [requires email and Internet access] to inform the President and your Members of Congress of how our immigration policies are strangling efforts to stop unemployment from rising.

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**PLEASE COME TO THE OFIR MEETING, Saturday, Nov.14, 1 p.m.**

Driving directions to Best Western Mill Creek Inn:

**From I-5**, take exit 253, which is the intersection of I-5 and State roads 22 and Business 99E. Go West on 22 (Mission St.) a short distance to Hawthorne Ave. Turn R on Hawthorne Ave. to the first left, which is Ryan Drive. Turn left on Ryan Drive, by Denny's Restaurant, and proceed to Mill Creek Inn just beyond.

**From downtown Salem**: Go east on Mission St. (State Rd. 22). Follow 22 just past the Airport and turn left on Hawthorne Ave. Then take the first left (almost an immediate left) into Ryan Drive; you will see the Inn directly ahead.

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You can reach the Washington office of any Senator or Representative by calling this toll-free number:

**1-866-220-0044**

**Senator Ron Wyden --** Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>; Webform for email: On his website, click Contact. **Portland** office: 1220 SW 3rd Ave., Suite 585, Portland OR 97204; 503-326-7525; Fax: 503-326-7528.

**Senator Jeff Merkley --** Website: <http://merkley.senate.gov>; Webform for Email: On his homepage, click on Contact Jeff. **Portland** office: 121 SW Salmon St., Ste 1400, Portland OR 97204; 503-326-3386; Fax: 503-326-2900.

District 1 – **Rep. David Wu.** Web address: <http://www.house.gov/wu>; Form for email: On his website, click Contact. Toll-free phone: 1-800-422-4003. **Portland** office: 620 SW Main St., Suite 606, Portland OR 97205. Phone: 503-326-2901; Fax: 503-326-5066

District 2 – **Rep. Greg Walden.** Web address: <http://walden.house.gov> Form for email: On his homepage, click Email Greg Now. Toll-free phone: 1-800-533-3303. **Medford** office: 843 E. Main St., Ste.400, Medford OR 97504 Phone: 541-776-4646. Fax: 541-779-0204.

District 3 – **Rep. Earl Blumenauer.** Web address: <http://blumenauer.house.gov> Form for email: On his homepage, click Contact Earl. **Portland** office: 729 NE Oregon St., Suite 115, Portland OR 97232. phone: 503-231-2300 Fax: 503-230-5413

District 4 – **Rep. Peter A. DeFazio.** Web address: <http://www.defazio.house.gov>. Form for email: On his website, click Contact Me, then on email link. Toll-free phone: 1-800-944-9603. **Eugene** office: 405 East 8<sup>th</sup> Ave #2030, Eugene OR 97401; 541-465-6732.

District 5 – **Rep. Kurt Schrader.** Web address: <http://schrader.house.gov> Form for email: On his homepage, click on Contact Us, then on email. Toll-free phone: 1-877-301-Kurt (5878) **Salem** office: 494 State St., Ste 210, Salem OR 97301; 503-588-9100; Fax: 503-588-5517. **Oregon City:** 112 8<sup>th</sup> St., Oregon City OR 97045; 503-557-1324. Fax: 503-557-1981