

Oregonians for Immigration Reform

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OFIR Newsletter, February 2010

A message from OFIR President Jim Ludwick...

Mark your calendar

Please join us **Saturday, April 3, 2010** for our next OFIR meeting. We have invited Fred Thompson and State Representative Scott Bruun to speak. Both are running for Congress in the 5th Congressional District, the position currently held by Congressman Kurt Schrader. **Both have agreed to attend and speak.** *Bruun has a fine voting record in the State Legislature, and Thompson's website has a very good statement against illegal immigration.* We hope you will come hear what these candidates have to say, ask questions and decide who will be the best candidate to replace Kurt Schrader in the upcoming election. Unfortunately, Schrader has made it clear that he supports *some* form of "pathway to citizenship" or "comprehensive immigration reform" which, of course, means an amnesty of some kind. We hope you will plan to attend!

OFIR Meeting

Saturday – April 3, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Best Western Mill Creek Inn, across from Costco in Salem

You are important

OFIR is busy **updating our membership list and contact information** so that we can keep you up to date with the latest immigration information in the relentless task of protecting our state and our country. **Any individual can make a big difference and we appreciate your participation** in OFIR. A phone call, FAX or visit to an elected official, a letter to the editor, an email or a positive remark to an employer that chooses to use E-Verify... there are so many ways to be involved. As OFIR Board members and volunteers, we lobby the state legislature, draft legislative bills to protect our state, respond to reporters, speak on college campuses, travel to Washington DC, meet with politicians, appear on television shows and radio talk shows, attend conferences, organize rallies, maintain our webpage, do endless hours of research and compile mountains of statistics, prepare publications and email alerts, schedule meetings and so much more. **We are all committed to the goals of ending illegal immigration and securing our borders!**

Your membership in OFIR (and the dues you pay) helps keep our mission front and center with our elected officials.

Please provide your updated membership information, enclose your dues and mail it today. To reduce postage expenses, we encourage you to **include your email address.**

Recent News

In early February President Obama announced plans to give a \$5,000 tax credit (up to \$500,000) to any small business that hires a new employee or gives a raise. The goal is to give cautious small-business owners an incentive and the resources to expand, while helping get the economic recovery moving.

However, the real question is WHO will get those new jobs (funded by US taxpayers)...
American citizens or illegal aliens? In his State of the Union speech, President Obama went to great lengths to say that he is going to create new jobs, but no mention was made about guaranteeing those new jobs would go to American citizens. It is unconscionable that American citizens would *ever* have to compete for jobs alongside illegal aliens.

With unemployment in Oregon over 11 percent – the second-highest rate in the nation - representing over **200,000 unemployed Oregonians**, it is imperative that **any bill creating jobs also include specific language requiring employers to verify a workers eligibility**. In a study done by Oregon State University Professor William Jaeger in June of 2008, it was estimated that there were about **100,000 illegal aliens in the Oregon work force**.

Nationally, an April 2009 study by the Pew Hispanic Center estimated that in March 2008, 8.3 million “*undocumented immigrants*” were in the labor force. They represented 25% of workers in farming occupations, 19% in building and grounds-keeping maintenance, 17% in construction, 12% in food preparation and serving. Any talk of legalizing those *illegal* workers is talk about keeping our young, low-skilled American citizens *out* of those 8.3 million jobs. Currently for every job opening in construction there are 30 unemployed workers. In all probability if you wanted a job in construction you would have to compete with 15 to 20 illegal aliens for that one job. That is outrageous! **Why would our elected officials work so hard to protect the interests of those in our country illegally** and not work to protect our most vulnerable citizens? **We must ask them WHY!**

In light of the recent turn of political events, it wasn't surprising that President Obama's last minute reference to immigration in his State of the Union address to the nation was a thinly veiled attempt to mask his **great fear** of how the American people would react if he even uttered the words “comprehensive immigration reform.” Yet, with the unemployment rate higher than it has been in decades and knowing that the vast majority of American citizens do not want an amnesty or “pathway to citizenship” bill, the President and his cohorts are actively working (behind closed doors, of course) on a bill to do just that! Our country will be in an even greater crisis situation, at the expense of the American citizen, if amnesty is awarded to the millions already here illegally. It will also open the floodgates for even more illegal immigration. Our elected officials are simply not listening to the American people. **We must speak louder, make more phone calls, attend more Town Hall meetings and make our voices heard! NO Amnesty!**

The Case for Supporting E-Verify

The federal E-Verify program enables employers to check the employment eligibility of new hires through SSA and DHS databases, electronically, within seconds, at no cost to the employer. It is over 99% accurate and can help employers be certain they are hiring only eligible workers. Currently, the Department of Homeland Security states that over **160,000 companies** nation wide have voluntarily signed up for the E-Verify program. **Over 1000 companies in Oregon have voluntarily signed up for E-Verify**. Among the companies are Jeld-Wen, Nike and the Hilton Hotels, as well as numerous Oregon School districts and Marion County. **A good question might be why *wouldn't* all businesses use E-Verify voluntarily? Simply ask any business owner, “Do you e-verify the people you hire?” If they say, “No”, ask why not?**

Passage of a bill that would **require** Oregon employers to use the federal E-Verify program to verify the work authorization of all new employees would help insure that **only American citizens and legal immigrants would be eligible for new jobs** in Oregon. To add additional “teeth” to the bill, any employer who does not verify the work authorization of all new hires should not be able to claim, as a business expense, any wages paid to the unverified workers. We encourage everyone to contact your state senator and representative and ask them to **support a jobs bill that mandates all companies in Oregon sign up for E-Verify.**

Technology update

In an effort to expand our reach and communication with a younger crowd, we have created a Facebook page. Please visit us on Facebook and help us grow our presence there! Visit the OFIR webpage and click on the Facebook link.

Dorchester Conference

OFIR will be well represented at the Dorchester conference next month in Seaside (March 5-7). With an opportunity to meet face to face with many political candidates and the media, **OFIR will be there to make certain our message is received loud and clear.** We will also have a booth well-stocked with up to date immigration information for interested participants. If any of you are planning on attending the conference, please stop by and say “hello.”

Washington DC - Hold Their Feet to the Fire

Last September, nine OFIR members traveled to Washington DC to participate in the “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” event hosted by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). Hundreds of delegates from all over the country participated in this media blitz on Capitol Hill. It was a great learning experience, as we met with each of our Congressional delegates or their aides to discuss immigration issues. **Not even one** of our elected officials from Oregon, when asked directly, would support any type of legislation that would make E-verify mandatory or would deny amnesty to millions of illegal aliens. It is clear that **there needs to be a change in Washington DC.**

This September, we hope to have even more people attend “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” to represent Oregon. Watch for updates about this exciting event as more information becomes available.

We’ve Said It Before

But, for the first time in history, the illegal alien population at the Oregon State Penitentiary has exceeded 1,200!

According to the Oregon Department of Corrections (OR DOC) the number of inmates with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holds exceeded 1,200 inmates last year. As of Jan. 1, 2010 there were 1,220 inmates in the State prison system who will be turned over to ICE once they have served their prison terms. The **1,220 criminal alien prisoners** reported in the state system **are in addition to the hundreds of criminal alien prisoners held in county jails in Oregon.** It represents a **25 percent increase in just three years.** More than half of the 1,220

criminal aliens in the state penitentiary are serving time for **homicide, kidnapping, rape, sexual abuse or sodomy.**

While it is impossible to calculate the personal cost and pain to someone who has had a family member murdered, raped, kidnapped, or injured or killed by a drunk driving illegal alien, one can calculate the financial cost to taxpayers for the incarceration of these criminals. The state spends about \$85 per day for each inmate. The cost of just **incarceration alone is \$38 million a year. If you add in the cost of housing illegal aliens in county jails it reaches \$50 million dollars a year.**

Join OFIR. *You* can make a difference!

Oregonians for Immigration Reform was organized in 2000 with the goals of ending illegal immigration and reducing legal immigration levels to environmentally and socially sustainable numbers. OFIR is a 501(c)(4) organization under IRS rules; dues and contributions to OFIR are not tax-deductible.

Checks for annual dues can be written to OFIR, or to Oregonians for Immigration Reform. The scale of dues is listed inside the enclosed dues remittance envelope.

An annual financial report for OFIR is filed with the Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Activities Section, and can be seen online.

OFIR also has a Political Action Committee. Contributions to the OFIR PAC are eligible for the political tax credit on Oregon state (not federal) income tax returns, up to \$50 per year for an individual, and \$100 for a couple filing jointly. Checks for the OFIR PAC must be written to OFIR PAC. **Don't let this valuable tax credit go to waste; use it to support the great work that OFIR is doing both here in Oregon, and on a national scale!**

All officers and Board members serve as volunteers; there is no paid staff or rented office space. All activities of OFIR depend upon the cooperation and support of members.

PLEASE COME TO THE NEXT OFIR MEETING

Saturday, April 3, 1:00 p.m.

Driving directions to Best Western Mill Creek Inn:

From I-5, take exit 253 toward Hwy 22 and Business 99E. Go **west** on Hwy 22 (Mission St.) a short distance to Hawthorne Ave. Turn **right** on Hawthorne Ave., then take the first **left**, which is Ryan Dr., just before Denny's Restaurant, and proceed to Mill Creek Inn just beyond.

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

Please fill out and return the enclosed 2010 OFIR membership dues envelope!
Together, we can win the battle for a sensible immigration policy in this country!
Please share this publication with a family member, friend, neighbor or co-worker.

Thank you!