

Oregonians for Immigration Reform
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OFIR Newsletter, September 2011

Everyone is Invited... Join OFIR members, supporters and new friends

Meeting Announcement - Saturday, September 10, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. 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. Invite a friend to join you.

Guest speaker will be Marion County Sheriff Jason Myers, who will talk about his role in local administration of the federal Secure Communities program. He will speak for about 15 minutes and then answer questions.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity! An anonymous and *very generous donor* has offered to MATCH, dollar for dollar, any donations collected up to \$100 per donation, during our September 10th meeting. The donation must be collected at the meeting to be eligible. Please bring your checkbook, cash or piggybank and give what you can afford. These opportunities don't come along very often.

Looking Ahead – Please also put on your calendar the Saturday, November 12, 2011 meeting of OFIR, at which the biennial election of officers will be held. Same time (2 p.m.) and place.

THE 2011 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION: IMMIGRATION BILLS AND ACTIONS

Two bad immigration bills dominated the 2011 Oregon Legislature: **Senate Bill 742**, would provide in-state tuition benefits for illegal aliens and **Senate Bill 845**, would give “driving privilege” cards to illegal aliens. OFIR of course opposed both measures, and both bills went down to defeat.

Senate Bill 742 was ultimately defeated, but was easily the most contentious bill and the one that advanced the farthest. SB 742 passed the Senate, and was eventually assigned to the House Rules Committee where it died. The bill did receive two hearings, but when it became clear that it didn't have the votes to pass out of committee, illegal alien proponents led by Representative Michael Dembrow, (D-Portland), Senator Frank Morse, (R-Albany), and Representative Dave Hunt (D-Gladstone), tried to force a vote by discharge petition. Fortunately, they failed.

More than 60 OFIR members showed up at the final SB 745 hearing to speak in opposition to giving in-state tuition benefits to illegal aliens. Thoughtful, factual testimony by OFIR members was decisive in stopping the bill. Committee members received hundreds of phone calls, e-mails and faxes in opposition to the bill. Many OFIR members went to the State Capitol and met personally with members of the legislature to encourage them not to pass the bill. We chronicled more than 100 “letters to the editor” in opposition to SB 742. It marked the fifth time we

defeated in-state tuition benefits for illegal aliens, from 2003-2011. Unfortunately, we expect that this kind of legislation will be re-introduced.

Senate Bill 845 received one “courtesy hearing” in front of the Senate Transportation Committee. It was clear from the onset that giving driver privilege cards to illegal aliens did not have the votes needed to pass. Nonetheless a number of self-identified illegal aliens and their supporters testified that if illegal aliens could not get licenses it would be difficult for them to get to work, to school and to do business. The 2008 Oregon Legislature had passed Senate Bill 1080 which ended the practice of Oregon giving driver licenses to illegal aliens. Because of SB 1080 many illegal aliens are now facing the expiration of their driver licenses and their inability to get a new one here. OFIR worked for 8 years to end the practice of the Oregon DMV giving driver licenses to illegal aliens. Again, it's likely that a bill similar to this one will be re-introduced.

A number of *good* immigration bills were introduced in 2011, many of them by Rep. Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer). Unfortunately none of them passed:

House Bill 2804, which would require evidence of citizenship for persons to register to vote for the first time.

House Bill 2805, which would prohibit state agencies from providing employment, products, services or licenses to persons who are not lawfully present in the U.S.

House Bill 3045 would require all businesses to sign up for the federal E-Verify program. E-Verify is a free, voluntary internet-based application that allows a company to verify the work eligibility of all new hires. Please read the section in this issue “The Case for Passing E-Verify in Oregon.” All newly created jobs should go to American citizens and not illegal aliens. With over 200,000 Oregonians out of work and an estimated 130,000 illegal aliens working in Oregon, mandatory E-Verify should have passed. A mandatory Federal E-Verify bill is pending in Congress, and OFIR is working for its passage.

House Bill 2754 would direct the Oregon Attorney General to pursue reimbursement from the federal government for the cost of the incarceration of illegal aliens in Oregon prisons. Over the past 3 years we have seen a 22% increase in the number of inmates with ICE holds at the Oregon State Penitentiary. An inmate with an ICE hold is one who will be turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be deported after the inmate has served the state prison sentence. Oregon taxpayers spend over \$50 million a year for just the incarceration of illegal aliens in Oregon prisons. The federal government reimburses Oregon about \$6 million dollars leaving Oregon taxpayers with a \$44 million debt.

As bad as it is for Oregon taxpayers, it could be worse. Consider California, for example. They have over 20,000 illegal aliens incarcerated in their prison systems. The cost for incarceration alone is over \$1 billion a year. That \$1 billion doesn't include prosecution costs, special health care needs, translators, lawyers, etc. The \$1 billion most certainly doesn't include the human cost of having a spouse, child, friend or neighbor murdered, raped or robbed by someone who has no legal right to be here in the first place. *Illegal immigration is not a victimless crime.*

OFIR members *must* work together to help elect state senators and representatives who will introduce and *work to pass* legislation that will stop rewarding illegal aliens and instead reward

good citizenship. OFIR PAC will help identify good candidates in the 2012 election. Everyone must become involved.

YOUR OFIR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK AROUND THE STATE

What do your monetary contributions do for OFIR? A great deal! For example, your donations have allowed OFIR members to travel statewide this summer, participating in many political events.

In March, OFIR President Cynthia Kendoll traveled to **Seaside** to attend the Dorchester Conference. The annual three-day conference offers a unique opportunity to meet and lobby with politicians and policy makers from all over the state. Cynthia and board member Lyneil Vandermollen were busy answering questions, handing out literature and introducing people to OFIR's goals as Dorchester participants visited the OFIR booth.

In June, Rick LaMountain travelled to **Newport** to man the OFIR information booth during the statewide Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) conference. See Rick's article in this issue.

Cynthia went to **Roseburg** in July, to speak to the Roseburg Americans for Prosperity (AFP) group. She was warmly greeted and was given the opportunity to introduce OFIR to over 100 people, many of whom were unfamiliar with our organization and the work we do.

While Cynthia was in Roseburg, Communications Director Jim Ludwick traveled to **Bend** to participate in a lively discussion with Bend's City Club. Also speaking to the group was an immigration attorney. Radio, television and newspapers covered the discussion. It was an excellent opportunity for OFIR and our cause to get additional media exposure.

When OFIR representatives hit the road, meet new people and spread the word about the work we do, our membership grows and even more people get involved. The speaking engagements are unpaid, so your contributions help reimburse travel costs for the people spreading our message statewide. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such a great summer for OFIR!

Over the past year, OFIR Communications Director Jim Ludwick addressed classes at the University of Oregon, Willamette University, Chemeketa College, Portland State University, as well as numerous civic and political organizations. He has been invited to speak on Public Radio, network radio talk shows, and television. As media spokesperson for OFIR, he is often contacted by news reporters for comments on current immigration issues.

A successful billboard campaign is another method of spreading OFIR's message. Both digital and vinyl billboards were placed in **Salem, McMinnville and Grand Ronde**. Billboard messages cause OFIR phones to ring and this gives us the opportunity to talk with frustrated citizens, tell them about OFIR, answer questions and let them know what they can do to help. Generous donations specifically for the billboard campaign are greatly appreciated!

Social Media Update -- While many of our members do not have access to a computer, OFIR and the majority of our members rely heavily on our website for up-to-date information, email alerts and Facebook page conversations to spread the word about what's happening and how

members can get involved. Over the next month, those of you that have visited our website will begin to see changes as our site goes “under construction” and gets a brand new look. Please, check it out and see what we have been up to at www.oregonir.org A generous donor has provided the funds needed to get our much needed facelift.

THE CASE FOR PASSING E-VERIFY IN OREGON

Unemployment in Oregon is over 9 percent representing over 208,000 unemployed Oregonians. In a study done by Oregon State Professor William Jaeger in June of 2008, he estimated that there were about 97,000 illegal aliens in the Oregon work force. A 2010 report by the Pew Hispanic Research Center estimates the number at 130,000. It is unconscionable that American citizens have to compete for jobs against illegal aliens at any time, let alone during the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930’s.

All employers should be required to use the federal E-Verify program to verify the work authorization of all new employees. The Federal E-Verify program is a voluntary, free, internet-based application that allows employers to verify the eligibility of new employees. E-Verify is not a retrospective look into an existing labor force rather it only verifies the work eligibility of new hires.

Currently the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), states that over *250,000 companies nationwide have voluntarily signed up for the E-Verify* program at over 700,000 work sites. The E-Verify program checks the Social Security number of newly hired employees electronically within seconds and at no cost to the employer.

Over 2000 companies in Oregon have voluntarily signed up for E-Verify. Among the companies are Jeld-Wen, Nike, Precision Castparts, Bi-Mart, Baskin Robbins and the Hilton Hotels. Numerous Oregon School districts and Oregon county governments use the program. All contractors doing business with the federal government are now required to use the program.

Currently 15 states require use of E-Verify in certain circumstances. They are Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Utah.

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) reports that customers scored E-Verify with an 82% approval rating. DHS states that the E-Verify system is very accurate. About 97 percent are verified within five to ten seconds; another 1.2 percent within 24 hours. About 2 percent of new employees are not confirmed as work authorized.

Companies that play by the rules should not have to compete against companies that cheat by hiring illegal aliens. **Citizens should not have to compete with illegal aliens for new jobs.**

CRIMINAL ALIENS IN OREGON

The scale of crimes against Oregonians by foreign nationals (criminal aliens) is a real concern for OFIR leadership and the public. David Olen Cross voluntarily monitors alien crime across the state by looking at aliens with Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) detainees in the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) prison system and in county jails where information is

available on prisoner immigration status. He compiled the statistics presented in this report.

Over the last three years (1st January 2008-2011), the number and percentage of criminal aliens in the State prison system has grown substantially (See table).

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS			
Month/Day/Year	DOC U.S. Citizen Inmates	DOC Inmates W/ICE detainees	DOC % Inmates W/ICE detainees
Jan. 1, 2008	12,378	1,027	7.66%
Jan. 1, 2009	12,495	1,136	8.33%
Jan. 1, 2010	12,564	1,220	8.85%
Jan. 1, 2011	12,670	1,254	9.01%

Source: Research and Evaluation DOC Unit-ICE inmates lists 01JAN08.rtf-01 JAN 11.rtf and Inmate Population Profile 01JAN08-01JAN11.

Comparing DOC criminal alien incarceration numbers from January 1, 2008 (1,027 criminal aliens) and January 1, 2011 (1,254 criminal aliens), the DOC prison system incarcerated 227 more criminal aliens than it did on January 1, 2008, a 22.10% increase (See table).

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS			
Month/Day/Year	DOC Total Inmates W/ICE detainees	DOC Inmates W/ICE detainees # Increase or (Decrease) from Previous Year	DOC Inmates W/ICE detainees % Increase or (Decrease) from Previous Year
Jan. 1, 2008	1,027	—	—
Jan. 1, 2009	1,136	109	10.61%
Jan. 1, 2010	1,220	84	7.39%
Jan. 1, 2011	1,254	34	2.79%
Total		227	22.10%

Source: Research and Evaluation DOC Unit-ICE inmates lists 01JAN08.rtf-01 JAN 11.rtf and Inmate Population Profile 01JAN08-01JAN11.

Looking at the 1,254 criminal aliens incarcerated on January 1st of this year in Oregon state prisons, from 12 of 36 Oregon counties, by number per county and percentage (%) per county we find the following: Clackamas, 88 (7.02%), Deschutes, 18 (1.43%), Jackson, 54 (4.31%), Lane, 58 (4.62%), Linn, 28 (2.23%), Malheur, 16, (1.27%), Marion, 282 (22.49%), Multnomah, 290 (23.12%), Polk, 21 (1.67%), Umatilla, 22 (1.75%), Washington, 233 (18.58%), Yamhill, 36 (2.87%), and other, 108 (8.61%), the remaining 24 counties.

The uncounted hundreds of crime victims and their families are too easily overlooked. Think of the toll on them which is reflected in the following statistics. Criminal aliens in Oregon State prisons on January 1st had been convicted of: 149 assaults, 44 burglaries, 38 driving offenses, 194 drug offenses, 151 homicides, 48 kidnappings, 177 rapes, 88 robberies, 212 sex abuses, 71 sodomies, and 82 crimes of other types. These are crimes that would not have happened if our federal and state governments were vigilant in stopping illegal immigration.

Besides the criminal aliens in State prisons, there are additional ones in County jails. On various days in January 2011 there were 171 criminal aliens incarcerated at the following county jails: Clackamas, 12; Jackson, 8; Josephine, 1; Lincoln, 6; Linn, 1; Marion, 51; Northern Oregon Regional Corrections (NORCOR), 9; Polk, 6; Umatilla, 11; Washington, 58; and Yamhill, 8.

OFIR leadership uses the preceding alien crime numbers and statistics to inform and educate elected officials at the national, state, and county level for the purpose of recommending or supporting legislation to combat alien crime in the state.

OFIR ATTENDS OREGON VFW CONVENTION

By Rick LaMountain, Member, OFIR Board of Directors, Veteran

Veterans of the U.S. armed forces are among the most patriotic of Americans. They understand that mass illegal immigration undermines our nation's security and rule of law -- which, as soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, they pledged their lives to defend. Two of America's premier veterans' groups, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, have taken strong official stands against illegal immigration and for enhanced border security.

In late June, at the Shilo Inn in Newport, I attended the state convention of the Oregon VFW and its Ladies' Auxiliary. In attendance were some 400 delegates from VFW posts around the state. In the hotel's convention center, I manned a table filled with OFIR displays, OFIR brochures and position papers, and literature from NumbersUSA and the Federation for American Immigration Reform. The table was situated directly at the entrance to the main conference rooms, and it attracted a lot of attention.

I had interesting conversations with many of the delegates. Most were well-informed about the immigration issue. All recognized the need for a secure border. And some expressed their thanks for OFIR's efforts. In the future, OFIR will continue reaching out to Oregon's veterans -- our natural allies in the fight against illegal immigration.

UPDATE ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS

At the end of November 2010, we were facing a strong effort by illegal alien supporters in the Senate to pass the DREAM Act in the special lame-duck session called for December. Versions of the DREAM Act have been around Congress for so long that almost everyone is familiar with the purpose: to give in-state tuition benefits to the foreign-born children of illegal aliens and expedite their "path to citizenship" along with including various loop-holes broadening the scope to as many illegal aliens as possible and providing "family-reunification" to the illegal alien parents and extended relatives of the student (possibly even a 35-year-old "child").

The battle to stop the DREAM Act was intense and the outcome perilously in doubt. Our side won in a cloture vote on Dec. 18. The vote question was whether to end debate and proceed to a floor vote. Cloture or closing of debate requires 60 votes, and DREAM Act supporters could come up with only 55, insufficient to proceed. Thus the bill died, and the 111th Congress ended soon after. This was a narrow escape for citizens and our nation, from a major immigration disaster. If we had lost this fight, 10 years of beating back amnesty attempts would have been nullified, said Roy Beck of NumbersUSA. Sadly, both of Oregon's Senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley voted for the DREAM Act. Merkley will be up for re-election in 2014, Wyden in 2016.

In January the new, 112th Congress convened, with Republicans in the majority in the House. Many new Representatives are friendly to stricter immigration controls. Some very good immigration bills have been introduced that have broad sponsorship. The most important is **H.R. 2164, the Legal Workforce Act**, which would require nationwide use of E-Verify for all employers, phased in over a three year period. Most employers (99%) would be required to use

E-Verify within two years, and large corporations and federal and state governments, within six months. As of 8/4/11, the bill had 59 sponsors, none from Oregon. Please contact your Representative and urge him to sponsor and support this bill. It would screen out illegal aliens from jobs that rightfully should be filled by citizens and legal workers.

On July 20, the House Judiciary Committee passed **H.R. 704, the SAFE for America Act**, which would end the visa lottery program that gives 55,000 work permits annually to immigrants through a lottery. If this bill is passed by the full House and the Senate and signed by Pres. Obama, it will mean 550,000 fewer permanent work permits over the next decade. Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-4) is one of 43 sponsors of this bill; he's the only sponsor among the Oregon House delegation so far. Please contact your Representative and urge support for H.R. 704.

Other good bills pending that have substantial sponsorship are H.R. 692, to end chain migration, which allows any one legal immigrant to bring citizenship eligibility to a long chain of relatives; H.R. 140 and S. 723, which would end birthright citizenship; H.R. 100 and H.R. 1196, which would help local authorities to cooperate in enforcement of immigration laws.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: AMNESTY BY OTHER MEANS

Increasingly disturbing reports are surfacing about moves within the political leadership of DHS and ICE to take advantage of all loopholes in the immigration laws that would enable illegal aliens to remain in this country.

The ICE Director issued a memo on June 17 to all senior ICE staff authorizing them to decline to remove illegal aliens who meet qualifications for amnesty under the DREAM Act. **This could not have been done without the instigation or approval of Pres. Obama.** Another recent memo tells ICE officials when to exercise "prosecutorial discretion," such as when to defer the removal of immigrants; when not to stop, question, arrest, or detain an immigrant, and when to dismiss a removal proceeding. Officials are also told not to seek removal of illegal aliens who have been here for many years.

To stop these abuses of power by Pres. Obama and his appointees, Rep. Lamar Smith, chair of the House Judiciary Committee has introduced the **HALT Act, H.R. 2497.**

Testifying in favor of the bill on July 26, Jessica Vaughan, of the Center for Immigration Studies, said: "This bill would prevent these tools [discretionary forms of relief from immigration law enforcement], **which are intended to benefit only the most exceptionally compelling cases**, from being used to create backdoor legalization programs for large numbers of otherwise unqualified or ineligible illegal aliens. Such schemes run counter to the expressed wishes of Americans and their elected representatives, who have already rejected large scale legalization programs several times in the last few years. **This bill would help uphold popular and revered principles for immigration policy, namely that immigration to the United States should occur through legal, fair and open processes, and in numbers and characteristics that are consistent with our national interest and determined by our elected representatives, not by administrative fiat or in service of the political agenda of executive branch appointees.**"

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PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECTS FOR 2012 ELECTION

The Democratic Party will probably nominate Pres. Obama for a second term. Several Republican candidates have emerged already. NumbersUSA has collected and analyzed the immigration positions of each probable candidate, and graded the candidates accordingly. Here are grades as of 8/4/2011, for the currently most prominent candidates. The listing is in order of grade: Michele Bachmann, B-; Tim Pawlenty, C+; Herman Cain, C-; Mitt Romney, D; Sarah Palin, D; Rick Perry, D-; Jon Huntsman, D-; Newt Gingrich, D-; Ron Paul, F; Barack Obama, F-. **You can increase the rating of your favorite candidates by convincing them to include in their agenda more outspoken and much stronger support for strict immigration controls.**

PLEASE COME TO THE OFIR MEETING, Saturday, September 10, 2011, 2 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.

FINISHED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER? PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND!