

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

**The next meeting for OFIR members and supporters will be held at 1:00 p.m., on Saturday, May 23, 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.**

### **2009 Oregon Legislative Session**

OFIR has been working at the Oregon Capitol, meeting with legislators and their staff in an attempt to pass two very good immigration bills, **House Bill 3364 and House Bill 2708**. We are also working in opposition to yet another attempt to pass a bill giving in-state tuition to illegal aliens, **House Bill 2939**.

Below are descriptions of each bill. We need members' help in calling, writing, or visiting legislators to voice your support for the OFIR position. Please read the information below about these bills, then contact your legislators. You can be sure that advocates for illegal aliens and open borders are busy lobbying for their immediate interests; on the other hand, we are fighting for the current and long-term best interests of the citizens of Oregon and the nation. We must make our wishes crystal clear to the elected legislators.

If you have email and access to the Internet, please send your email address to OFIR. To have maximum impact on bills in the Legislature, we need to be able to communicate quickly to all members.

### **House Bill 3364, Rapid REPAT bill**

Representatives Jim Weidner (R-McMinnville) and Jeff Barker (D-Aloha) have introduced HB 3364 for OFIR. Signing on as sponsors are: Representatives Mike Schaufler (D-Happy Valley/SE Portland), Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer), Greg Matthews (D-Gresham), David Edwards (D-Hillsboro), Andy Olson (R-Albany), Wayne Krieger (R-Brookings/GoldBeach/Bandon), Tim Freeman (R-Roseburg), Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point/Rogue Valley), and Jim Thompson (R-Dallas).

**Rapid REPAT is a federal program that allows states to transfer certain illegal alien prisoners over to the federal government for early release and deportation. The program is titled, "*Rapid Removal of Eligible Parolees Accepted for Transfer*" or *Rapid REPAT*.**

The inmate would be eligible for early release and deportation if they were incarcerated for a nonviolent crime and agreed to be deported. If aliens re-enter the U.S., state statutes must provide for revocation of parole. Additionally aliens would be subject to serving 20 years in federal prison.

Three states, New York, Arizona and Rhode Island plus Puerto Rico have signed up for the program. New York has saved \$140 million using the program since 1996. . Arizona has saved \$18.5 million since April of 2005. Rhode Islands program started on January 1, 2009. The Oklahoma House of Representatives just voted 90 to 0 to pass similar legislation.

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire has proposed that Washington State sign up for the federal program. It is estimated that the State of Washington would save about \$9 million a year.

Currently there are over 1,000 inmates with ICE holds in the Oregon State Corrections system. The cost of incarceration to Oregon taxpayers is over \$32 million a year. Unfortunately most prisoners with ICE holds are incarcerated for violent crimes and would be ineligible for the program. Nonetheless passage of HB 3364 would save the state millions of dollars and be a step in the right direction in removing illegal aliens.

**Please call your state Representative and Senator in support of HB 3364. Call 1-(800) 332-2313 or (503) 986-1187 to find out who your state legislators are, and obtain their phone number and address. In addition you can always call the OFIR office (503) 435-0141 for information.**

### **House Bill 2708, E-Verify Bill**

**HB 2708 requires Oregon employers to use the federal E-Verify program to verify the work authorization of all new employees. Any employer who does not verify the work authorization of all new hires cannot claim as a business expense any wages paid to the unverified workers,**

Oregonians for Immigration urge passage of House Bill 2708. With Oregon's unemployment rate at 10 percent and growing, HB 2708 would go a long way towards insuring that jobs created would go to American citizens and legal residents.

The E-Verify program is a free, easy to use online system that equips participating employers with the tools to quickly and effectively verify the employment eligibility of newly-hired employees. E-Verify is a product of partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. It draws upon information stored in various DHS and SSA databases to determine an individual's employment eligibility status.

Currently DHS says that over 100,000 companies nation wide have voluntarily signed up for the E-Verify program. The system is 99.6 percent accurate. More than 93 percent of requests are verified within five seconds: another 1.2 percent within 24 hours. About 5 percent of new employees are not confirmed as work authorized, mirroring the same percentage of illegal aliens estimated to be in the work force.

Over 500 companies in Oregon have voluntarily signed up for E-Verify. The program is available to all U.S. companies at no cost.

Currently 11 states require use of E-Verify in certain circumstances: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Utah.

**Please call your state Representative and Senator in support of HB 2708. Call 1-(800) 332-2313 or (503) 986-1187 to find out who your state legislators are and what their phone number is. In addition you can always call the OFIR office (503) 435-0141 for information.**

### **House Bill 2939 – In-state tuition for illegal aliens**

Oregonians for Immigration Reform is **opposed to House Bill 2939 as it is an attempt to give in-state tuition to illegal aliens.** House Bill 2939 is almost a carbon copy of previous bills that failed in Oregon Legislature.

Section 2. (1) of House Bill 2939 reads, *“For the purpose of determining tuition and fees for a financially independent student.....an institution higher education shall consider a student who is not a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States to a be resident of this state if the student:”*

**At a time in which higher education is facing severe cuts in programs and tuition and fees are being raised for American students, HB 2939 is a non sequitur.**

In-state tuition fees are highly subsidized by state taxpayers. It is very unlikely that a majority of Oregon's taxpayers would approve of having their tax dollars spent on illegal alien college students. Citizens are beginning to realize that an ever-increasing amount of money is being

spent on the education of illegal aliens. This is money that should be spent on educating American school children.

The estimated annual tuition and fees at the University of Oregon are \$6435 for in-state students and \$19,992 for out-of-state students. That means that if **HB 2939** were to pass, the cost to Oregon taxpayers for the subsidized tuition of an illegal alien student will be about \$13,000 per year, per student. Based on the report of the Pew Hispanic Center's estimate of 150,000 to 175,000 illegal aliens residing in Oregon in 2000, taxpayers could be paying millions of dollars to subsidize the college education of illegal alien college students.

In September 2008 a California appeals court unanimously found that a state statute extending lower in-state tuition rates to illegal immigrants in California conflicts with federal law and "thwarts the will of Congress."

The applicable federal law is Section 505 of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA) (PL 104-208; 110 Stat 3009-672; 8 U.S.C. 1623). **Referring to this provision, House conference Report 104-828 reads "this section provides that illegal aliens are not eligible for in-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education."**

**HB 2939 is a violation of federal law and an affront to Americans who believe in the concept of the rule of law. Illegal aliens should not get in-state tuition rates.**

**Please call your state Representative and Senator in OPPOSITION TO HB 2939. Call 1-(800) 332-2313 or (503) 986-1187 to find out who your state legislators are and what their phone number is. In addition you can always call the OFIR office (503) 435-0141 for information.**

### **Will Pres. Obama Succeed in Granting Amnesty to Illegal Aliens?**

Pres. Obama and the Democratic Party leadership have made it clear they want to pass a massive amnesty for the 12-38 million illegal aliens here. Using false and misleading terms like "Comprehensive Immigration Reform," "pathway to citizenship," bringing illegals "out of the shadows" etc., they are catering to ethnocentric lobbying groups and the chambers of commerce that represent employers seeking the cheapest possible labor regardless of the effect on citizens or ultimately the whole economy.

Recently in Congress it also became clear what the game-plan is to achieve amnesty. While claiming to support the Federal E-Verify program, on March 10, Senate leadership refused to re-authorize it beyond 6 months. Authorization for the program will expire in September. Congressional Democrats are going to try to force amnesty on an unwilling public by tying

together a longer reauthorization for E-Verify with amnesty for illegal aliens, under the deliberately misleading term, “Comprehensive Immigration Reform.”

Both Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley voted on March 10 to kill a 5-year extension of E-Verify and limit it to 6 months only. They followed the Democratic Party line, to pave the way for tying E-Verify to comprehensive amnesty in an effort to force amnesty’s passage. During the Senatorial campaign last fall, Sen. Merkley spoke supportively of E-Verify but his vote on March 10 showed how quickly campaign rhetoric is disavowed. Sen. Wyden has been in Congress since 1981 almost always voting for increased legal immigration, more importation of foreign workers, and against measures to control illegal immigration. His record is graded F by Americans for Better Immigration. Oregonians are greatly in need of a replacement for Sen. Wyden; he does not seem to understand that the U.S. does not have boundless capacity to absorb immigrants. We need someone with more knowledge of how immigration issues affect citizens and the nation, and a willingness to put the interests of citizens first.

It will be necessary for all OFIR members to pitch in vigorously when the expected push for amnesty comes. By most accounts, this will be in August or September. La Raza and other ethnocentric organizations have already started campaigning hard. Business interests that influence major newspapers and ideologically committed writers have stepped up the production of articles favorable to illegal aliens and open borders. These groups have large war chests and are taking full advantage of promises made to them by candidates last fall, but a dedicated citizenry can still defeat them if we are informed, organized, and active.

Meanwhile, it is always helpful to call or write to your Senators and Congressman stating your opposition to any form of amnesty by any name, and opposition to any increases in legal immigration, which is now at unprecedented levels, far beyond what is needed or desirable. The old cliché that we are a nation of immigrants does not mean we have no right to set limits to immigration. This is no longer 1700 or even 1900. The United States is full, a mature country with a population already in excess of environmental carrying capacity.

### **Don’t Have Email? – You Can Still Keep Up**

If you don’t have email and cannot subscribe to OFIR’s email messages, there are still ways to keep current with actions in Congress and Pres. Obama’s administration of immigration laws. The TV program, Lou Dobbs Tonight, on CNN Mon.-Fri. gives the fullest coverage of immigration issues. This is on Portland Channel 44, 4-5 pm PT, and is repeated from 9-10 pm PT on CNN Headline News, Channel 45. Lou Dobbs also has a radio program weekdays, which is carried in Oregon on AM 1410 KBNP, Portland, 6-9 pm PT; AM 720 KFIR, Sweet Home, 7 to

10 pm PT; FM 97.7 KACI, Hood River and The Dalles, and perhaps elsewhere. Check your local station's schedule, or ask your station to carry Lou Dobbs' radio program.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) publishes a monthly *Immigration Report* of about 8 pages, covering immigration issues. Become a member and receive the *Report* for \$25 a year. Address: 25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Ste 330, Washington DC 20001.

Our own radio talk show hosts, especially Lars Larson and Victoria Taft, discuss immigration issues intermittently. Lars is heard all over Oregon from many local stations. Victoria can be heard at AM 860 KPAM, Portland, weekdays from 5-8 pm.

**PLEASE COME TO THE OFIR MEETING, Saturday, May 23, 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 Hawthorn 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.