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Immigration May Drive U.S. Population to Half a Billion by 2050, FAIR Study Reports

Later this year, U.S. population will pass the 300 million mark. Over the next 45 years, we are on course to add perhaps 200 million more people to our population, finds a new report published by FAIR. [*Projecting U.S. Population to 2050*](#), authored by FAIR's special projects director Jack Martin and statistician Stan Fogel, finds that immigration will increase U.S. population to about 450 million people by mid-century if Congress simply maintains the status quo. If the sort of illegal alien amnesty and guest worker program now contemplated by the Bush Administration and some Senate leaders were to be enacted, the result would be an additional 200 million Americans, or a population of half a billion by 2050. To put that increase in perspective, 200 million people was the entire population of the United States in 1972 — a mere 34 years ago.

Projecting U.S. Population to 2050 examines four immigration scenarios and assesses their impact on the nation's population over the next 45 years. Owing to the mass wave of immigration that has broken across the country over the last 30 years, even a policy of zero net immigration would result in U.S. population topping out at about the 365 million mark in 2050 before leveling off. The zero net immigration option contrasts with the plan being offered by the Bush Administration which would take this nation zooming past 500 million people in 2050 and set the nation on course to a billion people by the end of the century.

The release of the FAIR population impact study comes precisely as Congress is debating how to reform America's immigration policies. While leading members of Congress are promoting a variety of immigration policies, none examined the long-term implications of these proposals. It is truly astounding that a policy that is likely to lead to a population increase of 200 million people over the next 45 years is being discussed without any reference to the impact that such population growth will have on the nation. Neither the news media, nor groups that purport to protect America's environment and resources, nor groups that purport to protect the interests of American labor have been willing to acknowledge the long-term implications of current, or increased, levels of immigration to the United States.

The dramatic population increases projected in the FAIR study will make every one of the challenges facing the country more difficult to address. On the environment side, a population increase of 150 million to 200 million people will exacerbate urban sprawl, accelerate the pace of wilderness and wetlands destruction, and add to the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. The consequences of sprawl and loss of resources such as wetlands were vividly and tragically illustrated by the effects of Hurricane Katrina, whose damage was magnified by the loss of protective wetlands.

As America's population skyrockets as a result of mass immigration, our capacity to sustain not only our own population, but much of the rest of the world's will also be diminished. Urban growth is already eating up millions of acres of productive farm land every year and the addition of perhaps 200 million more people would force even more agricultural land to be converted to urban use.

In much of the American West access to water is already a critical issue for many fast growing states and cities. One of America's fastest growing states, Arizona — which is also the largest gateway for illegal immigrants — is suffering through a prolonged drought that could potentially cripple the state. All across the nation we have become acutely aware of our dangerous dependence on foreign energy sources from an unstable and hostile region of the world. These and other critical resource issues would be affected profoundly by a massive increase in our population.

The impact of immigration-generated population growth was one of the primary reasons FAIR was founded in 1979. Over the past 27 years, immigration has emerged as a factor in every aspect of American life — from the quality of our education, to the availability of affordable health care, to the survival of the middle class. But averting the destructive effects of massive population growth remains a core concern of the organization.

Since none of the myriad of well-funded environmental organizations seems prepared to even consider the role of immigration policy in overpopulation, or address the consequences of a population path that could lead to 200 million more people inhabiting this country within the lifetimes of the majority of Americans, FAIR must continue to take the lead role warning of the potential dangers. *Projecting U.S. Population to 2050* lays out the options that lie before us as a nation. We will continue to work for immigration policies that do not lead to massive overpopulation and hold leaders accountable for deliberately ignoring the consequences of the decisions they make on this critical national issue.

Immigration Reform Activists Hold Candlelight Vigil at Sen. Dianne Feinstein's California Office

Source: Immigration Report

Like struggling middle class American workers in Tennessee who held a candlelight vigil in front of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's Nashville office, citizens in California gathered in front of Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Los Angeles office to seek her help in protecting American workers. The Los Angeles vigil, organized by FAIR, turned out more than 100 people from as far away as San Diego on a cold (by Los Angeles standards) evening at a busy intersection at the height of rush hour.

Sen. Feinstein is one of the senior Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee which is responsible for immigration legislation. More than 100 people, holding candles and listening to FAIR and other immigration reform activists, had a simple message for the senator: Save the American Worker. The people seeking protection for American workers received honks and other signs of support from passing motorists on their way home from their own jobs.

The candlelight vigil was covered extensively by local Southern California media, as well as CNN's Lou Dobbs program, which aired footage of the event. Among the featured speakers at the vigil were FAIR's national field director Susan Tully, FAIR's western regional field director Rick Oltman, radio talk show host Terry Anderson, California Coalition for Immigration Reform director Barbara Coe, as well as several local activists who spoke passionately about how their lives and livelihoods have been undermined by America's failed immigration policies.

Apparently, the people who turned out for the candlelight vigil got Sen. Feinstein's attention. In a subsequent committee mark-up session of an immigration reform bill, Sen. Feinstein stated that she did not think the nation's interests would be served by a massive new guest worker program, adding that past programs have done nothing to curb illegal immigration. Given the complete disarray of immigration enforcement in this country, she expressed a profound lack of confidence in the Department of Homeland Security's ability to implement a massive new guest worker program. Bowing to pressure from California's powerful agricultural lobby, she did however express support for an amnesty for illegal aliens working in agriculture and an expanded guest worker program for the industry.

The Power of Suggestion:

Presidential and Congressional Talk of Amnesty Sets Off Stampede to the Border

What happens when the President of the United States and leading members of the Senate suggest that there might be an illegal alien amnesty in the offing? As FAIR has predicted and warned, there is a mad rush to enter the United States by any means possible to take advantage of the offer.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center's annual report on The Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the U.S., illegal immigration surged by nearly a million people during the last year. The group's 2005 report placed the illegal alien population of the U.S. at slightly more than 11 million people, while their latest survey, conducted by demographer Jeffrey Passel, estimates that there are now 12 million aliens living here. That figure represents a 70 percent increase since the 2000 Census. In addition, the report estimates that illegal aliens now hold about 7.2 million U.S. jobs, many in previously middle class sectors of the labor market, such as construction.

According to FAIR, the record levels of illegal immigration that occurred during 2005 are the predictable outcome of an absence of interior and workplace enforcement, and statements by President Bush and leading members of Congress that are widely interpreted as signaling that another massive amnesty is forthcoming. Even as the president and others talk about the need to control our borders and spend billions of dollars in an apparently fruitless effort to stem the flow, their proposals to legalize millions of people who are here illegally have worked to undermine immigration enforcement.

Immigration and Outsourcing the Cause of Wage Loss for College Graduates

The old saying, "If you want a good job, get a good education," now comes with an asterisk. If you happen to be an American looking to get ahead in your own country, a good education isn't necessarily a ticket to success, according to new Census data. Real wages for college graduates in the U.S. fell by 5 percent between 2000 and 2004. According to leading economists, the reasons for this significant decline in wages is outsourcing of jobs and in-sourcing of foreign workers.

Alan Blinder, a former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve, says as many as 42 million American jobs — about one-third of the nation's total — are susceptible to outsourcing to cheaper overseas markets. If President Bush and congressional backers of a massive guest worker/amnesty program succeed, the other two-thirds could be opened to foreign workers who are willing to work more cheaply in this country.

Ironically, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Penn.), who is leading the congressional effort to enact an unlimited guest worker program that would allow foreign workers to compete with American workers in every sector of the labor market, criticized the president's proposed 2007 budget for not providing sufficient funds to help low income students attend college. If Sen. Specter has his way, we would spend millions of dollars to train Americans for jobs that won't be available because we've either exported the jobs or imported foreign workers.

New evidence of declining wages for well-educated and highly trained American workers, combined with a decades-long decline in real wages for low-skilled American workers, confirms what FAIR and leading labor economists have been warning about for years. Mass immigration, both illegal and government regulated, is creating significant downward pressure on wages of Americans in all sectors of the labor market and is endangering the future of the middle class in the United States.

Current immigration policies, and the refusal of the federal government to enforce laws against illegal immigration, are harming the interests of nearly all working Americans. These new data present a compelling case not only for enforcing laws against illegal immigration, but enacting overall reductions in government sanctioned immigration as well.

Making News

Free Borders or Immigration Controls? Aiding Illegal Immigrants Is Not Charity



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The following op-ed by FAIR's Ira Mehlman appeared in the "Open Forum" section of the March 3 edition of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

With a debate about immigration policy coming to head in Congress as early as this month, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony is spearheading the Roman Catholic Church's effort to derail legislation that would improve the nation's immigration enforcement capability, and to promote bills that would grant amnesty to illegal immigrants and open our doors to millions of new guest workers. Blurring the important distinction between immigrants and immigration, Cardinal Mahony used his Ash Wednesday sermon to address what he calls "anti-immigrant hysteria" in the United States, and to engage in some hysteria of his own, falsely asserting that a House-passed bill would criminalize routine church activities.

Americans, to their great credit, have not translated their legitimate frustration over the massive disregard of our immigration laws into animosity toward immigrants, nor should they. However, Americans have a right to demand that their government protect their security and interests by enforcing our immigration laws, and to hold all institutions, including churches, accountable if they knowingly aid and abet people who are violating the law.

The House legislation that Cardinal Mahony finds so odious, HR4437, will not prevent clergy from administering Communion or feeding people who show up at a soup kitchen. Rather, when religious workers cross the line and actively assist people in violating the law, they will be held accountable — just as any other American would.

The objections of Cardinal Mahony and other clergy to the House legislation are not limited to this single provision, but rather to immigration enforcement generally. Fundamentally, these religious leaders believe that the right of individuals in other countries to pursue economic opportunities in this country morally outweighs the right of this nation to restrict immigration. Viewed in this light, immigration becomes a form of charity that we, as individuals and as a society, are ethically bound to extend.

The problem is that what Cardinal Mahony and others are promoting is not charity. Charity can only be given of one's own resources. In advocating amnesty for an estimated 10 million to 12 million immigration-law violators, as well as for a massive expansion of legal immigration to the United States, Cardinal Mahony is being charitable with other people's jobs, educational opportunities, health care and other resources.

The reason why nations limit immigration is because immigration has an impact not only on immigrants, but on the lives of people in the receiving society. In the geographic region of Cardinal Mahony's archdiocese, blue-collar workers have seen a steady decline in real income since 1989, which coincides with the onset of mass illegal immigration into the Los Angeles area. The majority of kids now entering the Los Angeles public-school system are classified as non-English proficient and, not coincidentally, the high school dropout rate is more than 50 percent. Millions of medically uninsured illegal immigrants have contributed in a very significant way to a public health-care system that is so overwhelmed that the county has closed more than half of its emergency rooms in the past few years, creating the certainty that people have paid for mass illegal immigration with their lives.

Congress can, if it chooses, repeal our nation's immigration laws and create virtual open borders. What it cannot do is repeal the law of supply and demand. The policies being advocated by Cardinal Mahony in the name of compassion for the poor in other countries will inevitably lead to the impoverishment of millions in this country, and decimation of an increasingly fragile American middle class.

The American public is justifiably concerned about the economic and national security costs of mass immigration. After decades of broken promises about controlling our borders, Congress and the White House have a moral obligation to protect the interests of millions of working Americans and legal immigrants, whose livelihoods and security have been harmed by the failure to enforce our immigration laws.

Justice and compassion dictate that the Senate follow the lead of the House and adopt legislation that will allow us, once and for all, to enforce our immigration laws. The future of millions of Americans, who want nothing more than to earn a decent living and provide for their families, hangs in the balance.

Agency that Would Administer Guest Worker Amnesty is Riddled with Fraud and Incompetence, Finds GAO

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a devastating report about the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency (USCIS) that accuses the agency of fraud and mismanagement, and asserts that it is incapable of managing the workload it is now bearing. Under enormous political pressure to provide faster service for people applying for immigration benefits and eliminate backlogs, the GAO report finds that protection against fraud is being short-changed.

USCIS is the agency that would be responsible for administering an expanded guest worker or illegal alien amnesty program, should one be enacted. Such a program would entail USCIS processing, reviewing and investigating tens of millions of additional claims, despite the fact that, according to the GAO, the agency is already overwhelmed. While the Bush Administration is pressing for immediate enactment of a guest worker amnesty bill, the report reveals that safeguards to prevent fraud will not be in place until at least 2011 — if ever.

As many as 30 percent of religious worker visas now being issued are being handed out to people making fraudulent applications. The religious worker visa has been abused by radical Islamic clerics with ties to terrorist organizations, who have used the lax process to gain entry to the country. Even more disturbing, the GAO found widespread corruption within USCIS itself. The GAO reports bribery of USCIS personnel and the sale of green cards to unqualified applicants.

An illegal alien amnesty and a massive guest worker program are unjustifiable on their own merits. The GAO findings indicate that they would also be an unmanageable threat to national security as USCIS is forced to rubber stamp tens of millions of applications. The clear and present threat posed by the high levels of fraud, corruption and incompetence uncovered by the GAO militates for a sharp reduction in USCIS's workload until the American public can be assured that the security of the nation is no longer being compromised.

Immigration Reform Activism Growing in New England

Region by region, FAIR is helping to build a network of grassroots groups dedicated to fighting for immigration reform in their part of the country. New England is emerging as a highly successful battleground, with a growing network of reformers and legislative successes under their belts. FAIR's eastern regional field coordinator, Sandra Gunn, has recently spent time in New England working with local activists to launch groups.

For FAIR members in the New England region who want to get more involved on the local level, we encourage you to get in touch with some of the new organizations forming in your area.

Voice of New Hampshire for Immigration Enforcement
firedup@voiceofamericantees.com

Rhode Islanders for Immigration Law Enforcement
leprechauninc@msn.com

Massachusetts Coalition for Immigration Reform
massimmigration@adelphia.net

Connecticut Citizens for Immigration Control
CTCIC@optonline.net

Georgia State Senate Approves Tough Immigration Enforcement Bill

While Congress dithers, state legislatures and local governments around the country are beginning to take action to minimize the impact of mass illegal immigration within their jurisdictions. One of the strongest anti-illegal immigration measures seen yet was approved by the Georgia State Senate on March 7 by a convincing 40-13 margin. It now awaits action by the Georgia House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 529, sponsored by Sen. Chip Rogers, would allow the state to punish employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, require local law enforcement agencies to check on the immigration status of people who are arrested for other offenses, and impose stiff penalties for document fraud. Among the key provisions of SB 529 are:

- A requirement that employers prove the legal status of workers in order to claim tax deductions for their salaries.
- A requirement that companies doing business with the state participate in a federal verification program for their employees.
- Denial of non-essential taxpayer funded benefits to illegal aliens.
- A requirement that the immigration status of anyone imprisoned on a felony charge be verified.
- A crackdown on fraudulent document traffickers.

Explaining the rationale behind SB 529, Sen. Rogers stated, "Taxpayer dollars should not be used to pay contractors who knowingly violate federal immigration hiring laws. No business should be rewarded in the marketplace for breaking the law." Other states are considering similar measures to alleviate the growing burdens being imposed on local taxpayers all across the nation.

Passage of this landmark state legislation is a tribute to the determination of Sen. Rogers and State Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson who stood up to the special interest advocacy groups in order to protect the interests and security of the people of their state. SB 529 is also a result of the power of local activism. Local immigration reform groups in Georgia, led by The Dustin Inman Society, helped make immigration reform a key political issue that could not be ignored by local politicians.

The model legislation approved by the Georgia Senate is also a byproduct of the work that FAIR has been engaged in all across the country. FAIR, particularly staff attorney Michael Hethmon, worked closely with Sen. Rogers and other members of the legislature to craft a strong bill that, if enacted, will stand up to legal challenges by the illegal alien advocacy industry.

FAIR sees state-based legislation, along the lines of SB 529, as a critical component in the strategy to combat illegal immigration, and will be working with members of state legislatures all across the country to pass similar measures. Because the greatest burdens associated with mass immigration are borne at the state and local level, these entities have the greatest incentive to enact measures aimed at discouraging illegal aliens from settling within their jurisdictions.

Around the Country

Oklahoma

Faced with growing financial burdens, rising crime and increasing public anger, the Oklahoma legislature is considering a package of legislation aimed at reducing the impact of illegal immigration on the state. Bills before the Oklahoma legislature would allow the state to crack down on employers who hire illegal aliens, allow state and local police to enforce laws against immigration law violators, and deny nonessential public benefits and services to people who are in the country illegally. Massive public opposition from activist groups like Immigration Reform for Oklahoma Now has convinced politicians to take a stance against illegal immigration, including one Republican legislator who just three years ago introduced a bill to allow illegal aliens to benefit from in-state tuition subsidies at Oklahoma's public universities and colleges.

Illinois

While illegal aliens and their supporters were turning out in the thousands on the streets of Chicago to demand special rights, privileges and benefits, sober heads prevailed in Springfield, Illinois. In early March, the State House rejected a measure that would have allowed illegal aliens to obtain a state-issued "driving certificate." Illinois joins a growing list of states that have defeated measures aimed at accommodating and rewarding illegal aliens.

North Carolina

A report by the University of North Carolina's Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise reports the cost of providing public education for the children of illegal aliens in North Carolina has increased more than twenty-fold over the past ten years. The bill to state taxpayers for educating the children of illegal aliens now runs \$210 million annually, up from just \$10 million a decade ago. North Carolina witnessed a rapid increase in its immigrant population in recent years. The new report will boost the efforts of groups like N.C. Listen, a locally based grassroots action coalition, as they work for state enforcement measures.

Massachusetts

The impact of immigration reform activism is being felt in perhaps the unlikeliest of states: Massachusetts, home to the godfather of open borders, Sen. Ted Kennedy. Earlier this year the Massachusetts Coalition for Immigration Reform was instrumental in defeating a measure that would have provided in-state tuition benefits to illegal aliens at state-run universities and colleges. Now the group, which has worked closely with FAIR, is turning its attention to outlawing the acceptance of Mexican *matricula consular* cards for the purpose of opening bank accounts. State Sen. Robert Hedlund has introduced legislation that would bar state chartered banks from accepting the *matricula* card as the sole identification document presented by customers.

From the Hill:

"Securing Our Borders Must Come First"

by Sen. Johnny Isakson

The United States Senate is set to begin debating the most important domestic issue facing our nation: illegal immigration. When I was running for Senate in 2004, illegal immigration was second only to the war on terror on the list of issues folks asked me about on the campaign trail. In the year I've served in the Senate, illegal immigration remains one of the most pressing issues my constituents continue to raise when I am home. No matter where I go in Georgia — north, south, east or west — people across my state want to know what Congress is going to do about illegal immigration.

Everyone agrees we have a serious problem. There are as many as 15 million people in the U.S. illegally. Our school systems are stretched. Our healthcare systems are strained. Our local jails are packed. Our states face the challenge every day on how to deal with a problem the federal government has ignored for too long.

Illegal immigration is a crisis the federal government must solve, and there is much disagreement within both parties and both chambers over what is the best solution. For me, this is not a chicken-or-egg question about what comes first. There is no doubt in my mind what our first step should be. Before we address any other issues dealing with illegal immigration, we must secure our borders.

Securing our borders is not only a matter of law; it is a matter of national security. We are not just catching illegal immigrants from Mexico coming here for work. Among those flooding across our southern border illegally are thousands of residents of countries with known terrorism ties, including Syria, Iran and Libya.

Yes, I know we must also address the issue of how to handle the millions of illegal immigrants who are already in this country, and there are lots of solutions being tossed around. But Americans don't want to hear about plans for guest workers, immigration quotas or domestic enforcements until they are convinced we have secured the border and stemmed the tide of illegal immigrants flooding into our country.

In February, I led a Congressional delegation to the U.S.-Mexico border to see our illegal immigration problem firsthand. I wanted to talk to the men and women protecting our border on the ground and find out what resources they need to do the job better.

The keys to improving security include increased manpower, equipment and technology along the entire 2,000 miles of our southern border. I have introduced legislation to do just that, including authorizing \$450 million to maintain a squadron of at least 25 unmanned aerial vehicles that would allow 24-hour coverage on the border to help our men and women on the ground.

We are a nation of immigrants, and we should honor every legal immigrant who is here and encourage them to become citizens. However, it is imperative that we take the necessary steps immediately to secure our borders, enforce legal immigration and see to it that there are consequences for bad behavior.

You may write Senator Johnny Isakson, 120 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; or send a fax to his district office, 770-661-0768; or call 770-661-0999.

Book Review

Two New Books Examine Europe's Immigration Crisis and How it Affects America

In 1938, on the eve of World War II, Winston Churchill published his prophetic book, *While England Slept*, in which he predicted dire consequences as a result of England's failure to respond to the growing challenge of Nazi Germany. In obvious reference to one of the great leaders of the 20th century, American writer Bruce Bawer's new book *While Europe Slept* (Doubleday Publishers, 2006) warns another looming danger in Europe is only beginning to be taken seriously on the continent: Europe's immigration crisis. If one American sounding the alarm is not enough to get the attention of complacent Europeans, Claire Berlinski's *Menace in Europe and Why the Continent's Crisis is America's Too* (Crown Publishers, 2006), focuses on how immigration threatens the very underpinnings of European civilization.

Both of these expatriate authors focus on the economic and social train wreck looming in Europe, but their assessments of mass immigration and a widespread failure of assimilation of millions of immigrants, could just as easily apply to the United States. Brought on by a wave of immigration and failed guest worker programs — made up largely of migrants from the Islamic world — Europe today is a “powder keg, brimming with an alienation born of the immigrants' deep antagonism toward an infidel society that rejects them and compounded by misguided immigration policies,” write Bawer. The immigrant riots that gripped France last fall and continue at a lower level to this day, are the inevitable result of reckless immigration and guest worker policies combined with the breakdown of the assimilation process. Rather than an isolated venting of frustration, the unrest within Europe's immigrant communities is an ominous harbinger of what is to come.

Similarly, Berlinski finds immigration to be at the core of Europe's identity crisis. Her sober analysis of alienation among second generation immigrants in England could just as easily describe far too many of the children of America's wave of immigrants. “The kids are growing up without a sense that there's something to be taken from Britain...they look at the state to provide for them; they're not rooted in the community...they don't want to belong, they don't want to become part of British society.”

While observing glimmers of recognition of the crisis facing the continent, neither book expresses much confidence that unlike the Europe of Churchill's era, the leaders of today will act decisively to avert disaster. For the American reader, the lessons of Europe's immigration failure are a sneak preview of what can be expected in this country, if we blindly follow the immigration path we find ourselves on. The timing of *While Europe Slept* and *Menace in Europe* could not have come at a more propitious moment, as the Senate ponders a massive guest worker program similar to those that have been in place across Europe for decades. One can only hope that someone in the Senate reads.

Illegal Has its Privileges

The Bush Administration Proposes a "Gold Card" for Illegal Aliens

If you are one of the estimated 7.2 million illegal aliens holding jobs in the U.S. that might otherwise be done by an American worker (usually at higher wages), the Bush Administration has a special offer for you: A "Gold Card." Illegal aliens would be eligible to apply for a Gold Card (as opposed to a Green Card) that would allow them to work in this country legally indefinitely at any job, without regard to their impact on American workers.

The illegal alien Gold Card was first proposed by the administration in early March during a secret briefing of Senate staffers. The Bush proposal would give illegal aliens one year to come forward and apply. Applicants would be required to undergo a background check. Once approved, Gold Card holders would never have to return home and there would be no fines attached to having violated the law. Future guest workers would also be eligible for Gold Cards.

The administration has not developed a prototype for the illegal alien Gold Card, but FAIR has.

