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# House Leaders Ask to Hear From Americans; Put Immigration Conference Committee on Hold

## *Field Hearings to Listen to the People Set for August*

With public opposition to the Senate's massive illegal alien guest worker amnesty on the rise, and mid-term elections staring them in the face, the leadership of the House of Representatives called what amounts to a time-out. Despite pressure from the Senate colleagues and the White House to convene a conference committee to bridge the differences between their respective immigration bills, the House leadership has decided to put off any such meeting until at least the fall.

"We want to make sure, before we send our chairmen into that room, that they have heard from the American people," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert on June 20. Hastert, along with other House leaders have set August as the month for a series of field hearings around the country, at which members of Congress will listen to the views of the American people on the subject of illegal immigration. In reality, the reason that these field hearings are being held at all is because members of Congress have already heard from the American people and they are not happy about what they have been hearing from the Senate or from President Bush.

The timing of the field hearings makes it unlikely that any legislation that includes an illegal alien amnesty and a massive new "guest worker" program can be enacted before the November elections. The earliest that conference committee could be convened would be after Labor Day. However, the month of September is generally set aside for hammering out a federal budget for the new fiscal year which begins on October 1 a difficult process in the best of times, and a monumental task given the enormity of the federal budget deficit.

Most observers believe that the House leadership is playing the stronger hand. As Hastert noted in his announcement, members of Congress hear from their constituents on a regular basis about the need to secure the borders and enforce immigration laws, but "right now I haven't heard a lot of pressure for a pathway to citizenship."

Immigration enforcement and opposition to an illegal alien amnesty is also viewed by many nervous Republican members as an issue they can run and win on in November. With public approval for Congress and the president at historic lows, many members took note of Brian Bilbray's victory in a June 6 election to fill a vacant California House seat. Bilbray overcame an unpopular president and disgraced predecessor who is now serving time in a federal prison, and captured the House seat by running a platform of strong immigration enforcement.

The decision to hold field hearings is also a victory for immigration reform activists all across the country who were part of an invisible army of Americans who have inundated congressional offices with phone calls and emails expressing their opposition to the Kennedy-McCain-Bush amnesty bill. Perhaps it lacked the dramatic effect of the street demonstrations put on by illegal aliens and their supporters, but the sustained pressure coming from millions of concerned Americans clearly had an effect.

FAIR is especially proud of the role we played in making the American public aware of what President Bush and the Senate were up to. Using the Internet to keep members and activists informed of the latest developments, and an exhausting schedule of media appearances, we were able to reach millions of Americans with timely information that they were able to act upon.

## **What's Next?**

While the Kennedy-McCain-Bush amnesty is clearly on the ropes, we are not out of danger and this is no time for immigration reform activists to let down their guard. There are countless legislative maneuvers that the White House and pro-amnesty legislators can still pull out of their bag of tricks. In addition, there is still the possibility of a post-election lame-duck session of Congress, when members feel less accountable to the voters.

On the other hand, the postponement of the conference committee and the public's clear desire for an immigration enforcement bill may convince some in the Senate (one-third of whose members must also face the voters in November) to move forward with a bill that does not include an illegal alien amnesty. Just about every member of Congress in both the House and Senate profess to support tightening immigration enforcement, so there is little reason for them to put off completion of a bill that includes the enforcement language that both houses are on record supporting.

Stay tuned.

# Brian Bilbray, Co-Chair of FAIR's National Board of Advisors, Wins Special Election for Congress Running on Immigration Reform

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The race to fill the vacant 50th District congressional seat from California was no exception, even though one of the candidates was Brian Bilbray who for the past several years has worked as a consultant to FAIR. In a June 6 special election to fill the seat left open by the resignation of Randy Cunningham in northern San Diego County, Bilbray swept to victory by making true immigration reform the cornerstone of his campaign.

The race for the 50th District seat attracted national and even international attention, and was widely regarded as a bellwether for the November elections. We hope they're right. Bilbray made immigration enforcement and opposition to an illegal alien amnesty the focus of his campaign, and won a seat that many had speculated he would lose. Bilbray is a Republican who was running in a district where President Bush's approval rating is extremely low, and for a seat that was vacated by a member who is now serving time in a federal penitentiary for bribery.

The new congressman himself acknowledged the importance of immigration enforcement in his first speech on the floor of the House. "[T]here was one issue and only one issue that allowed me to be elected. It was not my experience. It was not my hard work, and God knows it was not my intellect. It was the fact that the people in the 50th District wanted something done, they wanted a job and a message sent to Washington, that now and here is the time to address illegal immigration," Bilbray told his colleagues.

Bilbray's come-from-behind victory is a message to candidates of all political parties. Irrespective of party affiliation, candidates who support the sort of immigration policies that the overwhelming majority of Americans are demanding will be rewarded by the voters. The special election in California bodes well for a future bipartisan coalition in Congress because politicians are now getting the message that supporting true immigration enforcement is a winning platform, while supporting amnesty will land them in hot water with the voters. Regardless of political affiliation, when candidates run and win on a true immigration reform platform, the real winners are the American people.

While FAIR is politically neutral, we are not emotionally neutral when it comes to someone who has served as a valued advisor and become a personal friend to many of us in the organization. Everyone of us at FAIR is delighted for Brian and his family and wish them the best as he returns to Congress and he resumes his service to the people of the 50th District and the nation.

## In Congressional Testimony, FAIR Warns of Possible Immigration-Related Voter Fraud

During street rallies all across the country earlier this year, illegal aliens chanted, “Today we march, tomorrow we vote.” Tomorrow, could be as early as November, warned Dan Stein, president of FAIR in testimony before the House Administration Committee on June 22.

Pro-amnesty organizations are planning massive voter registration drives over the summer, and the current voter registration process is an invitation to massive fraud. With almost no government oversight there is little chance that ineligible voters, including illegal aliens, would be detected or removed from the voting rolls. “With the passage of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 — known as the Motor Voter law — the process of registering to vote became nearly automatic for anyone applying for a state driver’s license,” Stein told members of the committee. Because all states issue licenses to noncitizens and many even allow illegal aliens to obtain licenses, the potential for voter fraud becomes massive.

Given the closeness of the last two national elections, even a few ineligible voters could determine the outcome of a presidential race. In 1996, which turned out not to be a close race, a massive voter registration drive run by the Clinton White House resulted in many thousands of ineligible voters being added to the rolls.

During his testimony Stein cited numerous specific examples of pro-illegal alien organizations actively registering ineligible voters. Often these illegal voter registration efforts were uncovered by the media, or by organizations like FAIR, which exposed efforts to register illegal aliens in Wisconsin in 2004. Given the brazenness of the illegal alien demonstrations and boycotts earlier this year, there is reason to be concerned that when they chant “tomorrow we vote,” they really do mean the next election.

# Around the Country

## **Pennsylvania**

While Pennsylvania's senior Senator Arlen Specter has been busy in Washington pushing legislation to grant amnesty to illegal aliens and flood the country with tens of millions of new immigrants over the next 20 years, the folks back home are taking a strong enforcement stance. In Hazelton, a town about 80 miles northwest of Philadelphia, the people, along with the mayor and city council, have had enough. "Illegal immigrants are destroying the city," declared Mayor Lou Barletta. "I don't want them here, period." So Hazelton is moving in the direction of adopting local measures that would crack down on illegal aliens and the people who profit from their presence. Local businesses caught hiring illegal aliens stand to lose their business licenses, while landlords could face a \$1,000 for renting to illegal aliens. The enforcement measures passed the city council by a 4-1 vote in June and final approval is expected in July.

## **Massachusetts**

In a state where FAIR has been actively cultivating a fledgling grassroots immigration reform movement, the efforts have begun to pay real dividends. Earlier this year, the Massachusetts legislature rejected a bill to grant in-state tuition subsidies to illegal aliens and now it is becoming a key issue in the upcoming elections. Retiring GOP Gov. Mitt Romney (a 2008 presidential hopeful) has announced that he will seek training for state police in immigration enforcement. Democratic Attorney General Thomas Reilly, who is running for governor, has also taken notice of growing public support for immigration enforcement. After publicly opposing the use of state police for immigration enforcement just three months earlier, Reilly decided in June that it is an idea worth considering.

## **Colorado**

By a 4-3 decision, the Colorado Supreme Court invalidated a ballot measure that would have allowed voters in the state to consider an initiative similar to Proposition 200, approved by Arizona voters in 2004. The court ruling was based on a legal technicality. In other political years, politicians from both parties might have heaved a sigh of relief, but 2006 is turning out to be anything but a usual political year. Gov. Bill Owens responded to the court ruling by declaring that he would likely call the state legislature back into session over the summer to have them consider a series of proposals that would put the measure back on the ballot, or use the power of the legislature to cut off most state services and benefits to illegal aliens.

## **Arizona**

Opponents of Proposition 200 do not give up easily. They mounted a bitter and expensive campaign to convince the voters to reject it, but the voters approved it anyway. They challenged the constitutionality of it in federal, but the court ruled against them. They appealed it to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and lost there too. They tried one more time to strike down provisions requiring proof of citizenship in order to register to vote, claiming it amounted to an illegal poll tax. In June, a U.S. Federal Court rejected that claim as well. Judge Roslyn Silver wrote that "determining whether an individual is a United States citizen is of paramount importance when determining his or her eligibility to vote."

# Black Americans Organize to Fight for Immigration Reform

Amid the euphoria of last spring's marches and boycotts, illegal aliens and their advocates boasted that the immigration enforcement bill passed by the House of Representatives had "awakened a sleeping giant." "Today we march, tomorrow we vote," they warned anyone who tried to oppose their demands for amnesty. As it turns out, it was the sight of millions of immigration lawbreakers in the streets, waving flags of foreign countries and demanding rights that truly awakened a sleeping giant. The real sleeping giant that has been aroused is the American public, which is flexing its muscles and making demands of its own.

On May 1, the day of the so-called "immigrant boycott," FAIR was proud to help launch You Don't Speak for Me!, a national alliance of American Hispanics who are demanding that the government enforce our immigration laws and reject calls for an illegal alien amnesty. On May 23, FAIR helped a coalition of black Americans make their voices heard in the immigration debate. At a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., black leaders from around the country came together to announce the formation of Choose Black America.

Perhaps no group of American citizens has been hurt as directly by unchecked illegal immigration as black citizens. Moreover, warned Choose Black America's founders, amnesty for the estimated 12 million or more illegal aliens living in this country and the arrival of millions of more relatives in the coming years would be devastating for American blacks.

"Mass illegal immigration has been a major impediment to black advancement in this country over the past 25 years," Dr. Frank Morris Sr., chairman of Choose Black America, told reporters from the nation's leading media outlets. "All Americans are harmed by rampant illegal immigration, but it is blacks, in particular, who have lost economic opportunities, watched their kids' schools flood with non-English speaking students, and felt the direct impact in countless ways. Our government has failed us, our elected officials have failed us, and now they are prepared to compound the damage with an amnesty and guest worker program that will set black Americans back a hundred years."

Dr. Morris, a former dean at the University of Maryland, was joined by leading black figures from business, the clergy, education, health care and the civil rights movement. The group called on Congress and President Bush to act in the best interests of all Americans, and challenged black political leaders in particular to stand up for the interests of the people who put them in office.



Nationally syndicated columnist Clarence Page noted that the emergence of Choose Black America appears to be an inevitable reaction to a black political leadership that seems to be out of touch with its base. “[A]lthough they are only beginning, at best, their arc upward in national prominence, the group called Choose Black America expresses an opposition to illegal immigrants that is hardly unfamiliar in black barbershop and hair salon conversations that I have heard,” Page wrote in a June 4 column.

The National Press Club news conference was covered by some of the leading national media, including CNN, Fox, and the Washington Post. The growing activism by black Americans in the immigration reform movement, and the role of Choose Black America, has also been noted in recent stories in the Los Angeles Times the Chicago Tribune and the Seattle Times.

The goal of Choose Black America is to provide a voice for black citizens who have seen their economic progress stagnate, as jobs, educational opportunities, and access to public services have been taken by millions of illegal aliens who have poured into this country. Over the coming months, Choose Black America plans to reach out to organize black Americans to work for enforcement of U.S. immigration laws.

More information about Choose Black America is available at [www.chooseblackamerica.com](http://www.chooseblackamerica.com).

## **Book Review—*The Population Fix: Breaking America's Addiction to Population Growth***

Edward C. Hartman has given a lot of thought to the issue of how population size affects our future and where we are now heading because of the absence in our country of any focus on the effect of population size on the conditions under which future generations will live. His concern led him to write a primer to educate the American people about the issue. *The Population Fix: Breaking America's Addiction to Population Growth* is a must read for everyone who cares about the national inheritance now being shaped for future generations.

Hartman's humorous style makes his analysis of the issues and the interests involved in the population equation an easy read while at the same time assuring the reader understands that not everyone will agree with him or come to the same conclusions about what population target may be optimal. We are challenged to think as "populationists," which means we must start reinterpreting concerns about our growing resource shortages and impacts on the environment as evidence of our failure to recognize and deal with symptoms of overpopulation. Hartman's scope is global, but he insists that is no reason to fail to address the need to work for an optimal, stable population for our country.

Tightly drawn chapters deal with symptoms of addiction to population growth, who are the addicts, the victims, the producers, pushers and enablers of population growth, and the meaning of rehabilitation, treatment, withdrawal, and cure in the context of achieving a sustainable population. Even those who already consider themselves "populationists" will find this book a valuable source of insight and information.

The author has accompanied his educational efforts with the establishment of a website ([www.ThePopulationFix.com](http://www.ThePopulationFix.com)) where you can order the book and explore the issue further. Or, for those not on the internet, you can place an order at 800-852-4890.

## Public Outcry Appears to Have Many in the Senate Doing an About-Face on Amnesty

Many Senators who were absolutely disdainful of the views of the American people as they approved their illegal alien amnesty bill, now appear to be singing a different tune after facing an angry reaction from their constituents. By mid-June, Senate leaders were making overtures to their House colleagues, indicating their willingness to make immigration enforcement the “first priority” of a conference bill, but still sticking to their demands that the final version include a “pathway to citizenship” for many illegal aliens and large increases in guest worker admissions. As they headed home for the 4th of July recess, their resolve on the amnesty and guest worker issues appeared to be softening further.

In a letter to Speaker Dennis Hastert on June 20, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist reiterated his support for the legislation approved by the Senate, while, at the same time, expressing reservations about provisions of the bill. “I agree with the President’s call for comprehensive immigration reform,” wrote Frist. “In particular any bill we send to the President must enhance border security, create an operational temporary worker program, provide for worksite enforcement, and address the status of 12 million illegal immigrants already in the country.”

Frist stated that border security must be the first priority and that a final bill “should include an effective worksite enforcement system,” but reaffirmed his support for an expanded guest worker program and amnesty. Frist would leave it up to the president to “certify” that the border was under control before implementing a guest worker program or “allowing some of those already in this country to apply for citizenship with certain restrictions and penalties.”

A little more than a week later, even the most adamant backers of the guest worker amnesty plan were in full spin mode. Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter indicated that the Senate might be willing to “delay” the amnesty and guest worker provisions until the borders have been secured. Even Ted Kennedy was explaining that the amnesty and guest worker provision would not occur right away because it would take several years to set up a process to carry them out. Ironically, only a month earlier, the Senate rejected an amendment that called for delaying amnesty and guest workers.

Sensing that they are gaining the upper hand, enforcement advocates appear to be holding firm to their position that a final bill include no guest worker amnesty provisions now or in the future. “I don’t think the House will go for anything that puts citizenship [for illegal aliens] in this bill,” said Senator John Ensign (R-Nev.).

## Bush's Support for Amnesty Draws Fire from His Base

President Bush's support for an illegal alien amnesty has drawn sharp criticism from leading conservative political figures. These leaders, who represent the core of President Bush's political base, warned the president that he risks alienating the very people who put him in office.

In an open letter to President Bush, published in the Washington Times, the conservative leaders demanded that "border and interior enforcement must be funded, operational, implemented, and proven successful and only then can we debate the status of current illegal immigrants, or the need for new guest worker programs." The letter charged that in supporting amnesty for millions of illegal aliens, President Bush was destined to repeat the same failures of the 1986 amnesty, when nearly 3 million illegal aliens were legalized, but the promised enforcement of immigration laws never materialized. "Let's not make that mistake again," read the letter.

The signers include William Bennett, Robert Bork, William F Buckley, Ward Connerly, Newt Gingrich, David Horowitz, David Keene, John Leo, Herbert London, Rich Lowry, Daniel Pipes, Phyllis Schlafly, and Thomas Sowell among others.

# Beware of Back Door Amnesty Dressed Up As Immigration Enforcement

## *House Bill Would Put Big Business in Charge of an Enormous New Guest Worker Amnesty Program*

Congressman Mike Pence is to be commended for recognizing the government's abject failure, over many years, to effectively implement and enforce U.S. immigration policies. Neither the interests of the American public, nor the interests of American businesses are being adequately served by the current immigration chaos.

Unfortunately, Pence's plan to privatize American immigration policy is not the solution. The legitimate needs of American businesses should be considered in the debate over immigration reform. However, the interests of big business are not the only, or even the primary, interests at stake. Under Pence's legislation, big business would be permitted to import unlimited cheap labor at the expense of U.S. workers. There are no checks and balances on an employer's demand for foreign workers—if big business says it needs foreign workers, it gets them. American workers and their families, who have the most at stake, are entirely left out of the decision making process.

Good public policy means that no sector of the economy or special interest group is given a free pass. Businesses still profit despite the fact that they are governed by all sorts of health, safety, environmental and other restrictions placed on them. Business is regulated because, as a society, we recognize that business's bottom line and society's bottom line are not one and the same. Similarly, immigration policy should employ checks and balances to determine the flow of workers into the country. It should not be a "free-for-all."

Yet, in the name of business, the key provisions of the Pence plan sacrifice necessary oversight of our immigration policies:

- The Pence plan would allow UNLIMITED numbers of new "W visa" guest workers to enter the country for the first three years, at which point the Department of Labor may choose to cap the guest worker program at any number it wishes. This essentially amounts to putting the cart before the horse. A system that objectively assesses the legitimate labor needs of our economy must be a prerequisite for any guest worker program.
- As an inducement for illegal aliens to apply for guest worker status, the plan calls for people to report to "Ellis Island Centers" outside the U.S. for processing and requires the Department of Homeland Security to decide on admission within THREE business days of receiving the application. For many reasons, this is a logistical nightmare and a guaranteed visa issuance mill. Questions about where these Ellis Island Centers would be set up, how the legitimacy of applications would be verified, or how adequate background checks would be carried out all in the space of 72 hours remain unanswered.
- The Pence plan would out-source the administration of vital U.S. immigration policies to private, for-profit job placement agencies. These private agencies will be handling sensitive and critical data such as criminal history records and fingerprint data. However poorly the government has administered our immigration policies, their theoretical goal is to protect the interests of the United States and the American people. The goal of private job placement agencies and document centers would be to place foreign workers with American companies, a task for which they will profit more for every person they process. Public interest would, at best, be a distant second for the private placement agencies.

- The Pence plan is a “back-door amnesty.” While the Pence plan does not have an express “path to citizenship” for illegal aliens currently in the country, it allows illegal aliens to become legal through a new guest worker program and then immediately apply for a green card. The transition to permanent legal resident is even encouraged because the new *W* guest worker visa may be indefinitely extended while a green card application is pending. Even if a guest worker under this plan did not apply for a green card, there is no reason to believe that after six years in this country these workers will leave the country voluntarily and even less reason to believe that there will be the political will to make them leave.
- The Pence plan is not a compromise. The only thing the legislation compromises is the job security of every American worker and the future of every American family.

# Taxpayer Funded Brainwashing

## *Los Angeles Charter School Dedicated to Teaching Ethnic Separatism*

Until it was exposed by popular KABC radio talk show host Doug McIntyre, few people in Los Angeles had ever heard of La Academia Semillas del Pueblo, a Los Angeles Unified School District charter school dedicated to teaching (some would say indoctrinating) kids in the pre-colonial cultures and languages of Mexico.

The school's founder and principal, Marcos Aguilar, is an unabashed ethnic separatist whose objective is resistance to assimilating immigrant children into the cultural and linguistic mainstream of the country. In a published interview in an online educational journal, Aguilar categorically rejected the landmark Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which outlawed educational separatism.

"If *Brown* was just about letting Black people into a White school, well we don't care about that anymore," said Aguilar. "The whole issue of segregation and the whole issue of the Civil Rights Movement is all within the box of White culture and White supremacy...We are not interested in what they have because we have so much more and because the world is so much larger."

While the 129 students are learning about their ancestral cultures, apparently they are not learning much else. La Academia Semillas del Pueblo ranks dead last in academic achievement among LAUSD's charter schools and the school has a dismal Academic Performance Index rating compared to other schools in California.

# Public May Finally Have Say on Illegal Immigration

**The following op-ed by FAIR President Dan Stein appeared in the “Equal Time” column of June 26 *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.**

While the White House and the Senate have been applying pressure to the House of Representatives to negotiate an immigration bill that includes a de facto amnesty for tens of millions of illegal aliens, a massive new guest worker program and huge increases in legal immigration, House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) affirmed that there is an important voice in this debate that still needs to be heard: the American people.

Thanks to Hastert and other House leaders, the American people will get their say in August at a series of field hearings around the country.

With anger growing over unchecked illegal immigration and the prospect of amnesty for tens of millions of immigration lawbreakers, these hearings should reaffirm the public's overwhelming support for the enforcement-only approach of the bill passed by the House last December.

It isn't often that Congress holds field hearings so that the people can have a direct voice in the legislative process. The fact that the House is planning to hold such hearings on immigration reform is an indication of just how strongly the American people feel about this issue. Recent polls indicate that there is strong public support for the enforcement-only approach taken by the House.

Even as supporters of an illegal alien amnesty have become more vocal, holding protests and boycotts around the country, House members—all of whom must face the voters in November—have been inundated with demands from constituents that America's immigration laws must be enforced.

President Bush and the Senate have moved forward with an amnesty/guest worker bill that, conservatively estimated, will add 66 million new immigrants to this country over the next 20 years, while stubbornly refusing to listen to the public.

We believe that these field hearings will mark a turning point in this debate and provide momentum for enactment of an enforcement-only bill.

As members of Congress move around the country and hear directly from the people, it will become abundantly clear that comprehensive immigration enforcement, not amnesty for illegal aliens, is what the public is demanding.