



# Immigration

## REPORT

*Special Anniversary Issue*

SEPTEMBER 2009

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Anniversary Issue  
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## Health Care Proposal Covers Illegal Aliens

**V**irtually every issue of concern to the American people is affected by mass immigration and illegal immigration. As the debate about President Obama's plan to reform our health care system raged over the summer, the question of whether illegal aliens would be covered became a point of controversy.

America's Affordable Health Care Act of 2009 (AAHCA), H.R. 3200, the House bill that would overhaul our national health care system, includes gaping loopholes that would

allow illegal aliens to receive taxpayer-funded benefits. According to analysis by FAIR, H.R. 3200 would not prevent illegal aliens from enrolling in the public health care insurance plan created by the bill. Even though illegal aliens are technically ineligible to receive government "affordability credits" to purchase private health insurance, many would likely benefit from this program because the House neglected to include a procedure to verify eligibility.

Illegal aliens represent a significant por-

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## Amnesty for Illegal Aliens Will Have to Wait Until 2010, Says Obama

**A**t a North American summit meeting with the leaders of Canada and Mexico, President Obama stated that he did not expect legislative action on an illegal alien amnesty bill until 2010. During the meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Felipe



CONTINUED on page 7

Health care *continued*

tion of the estimated 45 million people in the United States who are uninsured. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, immigrants (legal and illegal) and their U.S.-born children represent about one-third of those without health coverage. Including them under a taxpayer-subsidized health care system would add billions to the costs of the program.

While both President Obama and congressional leaders supporting his health care overhaul insist that illegal aliens would not be covered by a government health insurance program, H.R. 3200 includes no prohibition against the enrollment of illegal aliens. Thus, illegal aliens would benefit from a taxpayer-funded national health insurance program. AAHCA does exclude illegal aliens from receiving affordability credits to buy coverage through a private insurer, but even that prohibition would be meaningless. The bill establishes no mechanism to verify eligibility for that benefit.

The glaring omissions and loopholes in AAHCA are deliberate and not mere oversights by House leaders. During a mark-up by

the House Ways & Means Committee, Rep. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) offered an amendment that would have required eligibility verification for both government-provided insurance and affordability credits. The Heller amendment would require enrollees' eligibility to be verified using the existing Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement database and the Income Eligibility Verification System. In a straight party-line vote, committee Democrats rejected these safeguards for American taxpayers.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee later rejected an amendment offered by Rep. Nathan Deal (R-Ga.) that would have helped prevent illegal aliens from enrolling in Medicaid. In a narrow 28 to 29 vote, the committee rejected the op-

portunity to prevent illegal aliens from receiving Medicaid benefits. 3200, legal immigrants would be immediately eligible to enroll in programs created under the legislation.

FAIR takes no position on AAHCA or President Obama's efforts to implement health care reform. However, consistent with our long-standing policies, we oppose all government-provided, non-essential, non-emergency benefits and services for illegal aliens. Allowing illegal aliens to benefit from a government health insurance program or taxpayer credits for private insurance would be unfair and unwarranted. Such costly benefits would create additional inducements for illegal aliens come and remain in the U.S., and force law-abiding people to finance expensive benefits for illegal aliens.

As the debate about H.R. 3200 con-

WHILE BOTH PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS SUPPORTING HIS HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL INSIST THAT ILLEGAL ALIENS WOULD NOT BE COVERED BY A GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, H.R. 3200 INCLUDES NO PROHIBITION AGAINST THE ENROLLMENT OF ILLEGAL ALIENS.

portunity to prevent illegal aliens from receiving Medicaid benefits.

AAHCA would also create an exception to a policy that requires a five-year waiting period for legal immigrants to qualify for public benefits. Under H.R.

continues through the fall, FAIR will continue to educate the public, the media and lawmakers about the benefits provided to illegal aliens under the bill, and work to ensure that they are barred from coverage under the bill.

**Immigration**  
**REPORT**

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year marks FAIR's 30th anniversary. When FAIR opened its doors in 1979, most people wondered why we would need an organization dedicated to reforming America's immigration policies. As we look back, it is now obvious how prescient the people who founded FAIR really were. Immigration is one of the key public policy issues of our time, and it impacts just about every other issue of concern to Americans.

What a 30 years it has been! None of us ever expected from our earliest days in a little basement office on New Hampshire Avenue, that three decades later we would be watching the nation struggle with the precise problems our founders predicted we'd be confronting. Many of these problems could have been avoided through responsible action taken "at the flood," so to speak.

When FAIR was founded 30 years ago, our mission was straightforward: go up on Capitol Hill and tell Congress what it needed to do to deter the effects of a rapid increase in overall immigration—legal and illegal. They would do the rest. Armed with solid empirical data that demonstrated the need to stabilize U.S. population below 300 million, we figured we had it in the bag.

However, we have seen powerful and important opportunities pass by without the requisite response. Opportunities like the recommendations from the Hesburgh Commission in 1979 and the Jordan Commission in 1995; immigration legislation in 1996; the tragic events of 2001 and the lessons they taught us about our national security; and the economic crisis our country is now facing.

While many opportunities to make America's immigration policies truly serve the needs and interests of the American people may have been missed over the last 30 years, FAIR's diligence and commitment has attributed to the diversion of numerous policy *disasters*.

We believe that America can still have an immigration policy worthy of this great nation, but only if the nation's decision-making process—and the decision-makers themselves—change in a hurry. When faced with the reality of excessively high, illegal and poorly-skilled immigration, the nation must demonstrate a more mature response than what we've seen over 30 years.

Progress is often too slow, but in the next few years, we need opinion leaders who will acknowledge how immigration interacts (and often conflicts) with our most important national priorities; men and women of vision and high moral quality to help the public come to terms with the tough decisions a mature nation must make to ensure its long-term viability; responsible officials who will not be intimidated by the self-interested extremists who engage in brutal personal attack to try to advance their goals; honest leaders who will question why huge foundations want to underwrite policies that harm the interests of working class Americans; and a coherent vision for America in the 21st century – shaped by something more specific and tangible than "change."

The optimist in me says we can make these things happen. I believe in America and I believe in FAIR. If you believe in us, we will be here for you today and tomorrow.



1979



FAIR was founded. Over the years, there have been many people who have helped grow the organization such as Sidney Swensrud, Warren Buffett, Edward Abbey, Senator Eugene McCarthy and a long list of respected and nationally-known Americans.

1986

The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 represented the culmination of FAIR's efforts to enact employer sanctions. FAIR was the leading non-governmental advocate for the IRCA, which, despite serious misgivings, did contain the first real sanctions against the employment of illegal aliens. FAIR was closely involved in advising the INS in its implementation of the Act, developing over 200 pages of recommendations to enhance its enforcement.

1993



Following the deadly World Trade Center bombings, FAIR exposed the dangerous asylum system on 60 Minutes with Leslie Stahl and a national audience of millions of viewers. *Political asylum abuses, the World Trade Center bombings as well as the murder of several CIA employees in January*

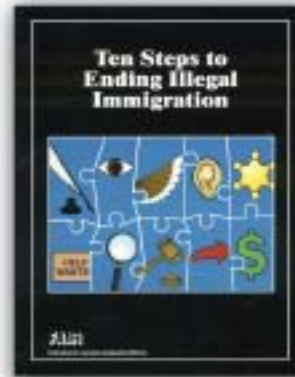
1980



FAIR launched the first public effort to prevent the inclusion of illegal aliens in the Census for the purpose of apportionment of congressional representation.

1988

FAIR commissioned and published the first comprehensive analysis of the resources and techniques needed to adequately patrol the southern border. This landmark report was entitled *Ten Steps to Securing America's Borders*. Many of these recommendations were later implemented.



1994

FAIR supports a national initiative aimed at building a coalition of local activists gathering strategic assistance in California. 187 to the public. The initiative is outspent by opponents. California voters approved 59% to 41%. California refuses to defend the

FAIR organized a broad coalition of political, business and civic leaders calling for adoption of employer sanctions in the Simpson-Mazzoli bill.



As a result of FAIR's efforts to expose the weaknesses of our legal immigration policy, Sen. Alan Simpson introduced legislation to institute fundamental reforms and rein in ever-increasing levels of immigration to the U.S. FAIR's efforts proved decisive in gaining widespread acceptance that our legal immigration policies must be overhauled.

FAIR was instrumental in securing many provisions in the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill, including a provision allowing local police to enforce immigration violations; the provision allowing aggravated felonies to be a bar to admission to the U.S.; a provision barring the granting of in-state tuition to illegal aliens, and a provision that subsidies are granted only to legal U.S. residents.

1991

1983

1996

30 Years

1979 - 2009

1999

WWW

FAIR's web-site was named "Outstanding Political Web site" by Votenet, an organization for politically active citizens. FAIR's web site also was awarded the Encyclopedia Britannica's Internet Guide Award for "quality, accuracy of content, presentation and usability," and the acclaim of the Public Broadcasting System.



Trade Center bombings, as abuse of our political... es to CBS correspondent... audience of 50 million... ers had been linked to the... rs of two and wounding of... y 1993.

California grassroots... rring illegal aliens from... c benefits. FAIR assisted... signatories and provided... presenting Proposition... In spite of being vastly... ents of Proposition 187,... proved the measure by... rnia officials, however,... will of the voters in court.

strumental in... y important... the 1996... enforcement... the 287(g)... owing local... immigration... exclusion of... elons from... e U.S.; and a... g states from... te tuition to... unless these... ranted to all... ts.

2001



Within hours of the September 11, 2001, attacks FAIR had information available in print and on the web site detailing the weak links in immigration policy and enforcement that put our country at risk. FAIR subsequently published a comprehensive anti-terrorism study, *Immigration Control: A Handbook of Recommendations, What Must Be Done in the Aftermath of the New Super-Terrorism*. We continue to provide annual updates on the state of our national security as it relates to immigration policy and practice on each anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.



FAIR created a national field team to assist immigration reform activists across the country with their efforts to implement local policies to discourage illegal immigration. FAIR remains the only immigration reform focused organization to have a grassroots team that works with local activists and groups to affect change at the state and local levels.

1997

2004

2006



Senate passes McCain-Kennedy amnesty bill. FAIR created a national grassroots opposition and the legislation died in the House.

2007

Senate leaders again attempt to pass a massive illegal alien amnesty with strong backing from the Bush White House. FAIR, again, rallied massive public outcry and the bill is defeated in the Senate. This did not deter the open-border special interest lobby, as the Senate brought forth a second amnesty bill later that year which FAIR again lead the fight and defeated.

2008

FAIR hosted the largest ever gathering of talk radio hosts. Over 40 radio talk hosts from across the country joined FAIR in Washington, D.C. to discuss immigration policy



FAIR supported an Arizona grassroots initiative (Proposition 200) aimed at barring illegal aliens from receiving most public benefits. Arizona voters approve the measure by 56% of the vote.



# A “Full Service” Immigration Reform Group

*What distinguishes FAIR from other immigration reform advocacy groups is the range of activities the organization engages in on a day-to-day basis. With a relatively small staff working together closely, FAIR is able to carry out its mission to educate the public and influence immigration policy.*

## **Government Relations**

FAIR's Government Relations (GR) department maintains daily contact with congressional offices, keeping abreast of every legislative initiative dealing with immigration. GR analyzes legislation and, on occasion, works with members of Congress to draft language for bills. The information is disseminated so that members of Congress, the media and the public have an opportunity to understand fully what is being proposed.

## **Research and Publications**

FAIR is a repository of information about all aspects of immigration policy. This information is put to use to educate the public and policymakers about virtually every aspect of immigration policy. The R&P department produces dozens of original publications each year, both in print and online. The information is widely disseminated and is often cited by the media and government officials.

## **Internet Communications**

New technologies have afforded FAIR countless new opportunities to reach the broadest possible audience with our message. FAIR maintains a staff of Internet communications professionals who post the latest research or legislative developments on several web sites, or through our Twitter blogs and Facebook page.

## **Media**

Few organizations of any size have the media visibility of FAIR, providing us a unique opportunity to reach millions of people with our message. FAIR spokespeople appear on hundreds of radio and TV programs each year, and are quoted in hundreds of newspaper articles. The media department generates news coverage by providing reporters and producers with new and timely information, and by placing op-eds and articles in the mainstream media. FAIR also hosts an annual talk radio event that brings dozens of talk hosts to Washington to discuss immigration policy.

## **Field**

With 250,000 members and activists all across the country, FAIR is the only immigration reform group with a field staff dedicated to working directly with supporters around the country. FAIR provides them with the information and tools they need to be effective advocates for immigration reform in their communities and they, in turn, provide a network of citizen activists who respond to calls to action.

## **Administration and Fundraising**

All of FAIR's departments depend on a solid group of professionals to ensure FAIR's operations run smoothly and raise the much-needed funds to bring about true immigration reform.



2010 continued

Calderon in Guadalajara, Mexico, on August 10, President Obama reaffirmed his commitment to enacting a sweeping amnesty bill, but that, “It’s very important for us to sequence these big initiatives.”

Specifically, Mr. Obama cited health care reform, energy legislation and reforms to the financial regulatory system as issues that must be dealt with ahead of amnesty. The president said that he expects legislation to be written before the end of 2009, but no congressional votes on an immigration bill until next year. President Obama acknowledged that this year or next, he expects a difficult fight on his hands. “Am I going to be able to snap my fingers and get this done? No. This is going to be difficult,” the president said.

In the meantime, the Obama administration continues to lay the groundwork for an illegal alien amnesty. Since taking office in January, the administration has dramatically curtailed immigration enforcement. In almost every area, from worksite enforcement, to implementation of E-Verify requirements, to cooperation with local law enforcement, to detention of illegal aliens, the administration has taken steps to reassure illegal aliens that violating U.S. immigration laws will be tolerated (and eventually rewarded).

While President Obama’s moving immigration reform to a back burner for the moment is welcome, the threat of another serious effort to enact a sweeping amnesty for millions of illegal aliens remains real.

Both the White House and Democratic congressional leaders remain firmly committed to the effort, and the amnesty advocacy groups continue to pressure for legislative action.

For its part, FAIR will use any delay in legislative action on amnesty to the fullest advantage. Both President Obama and Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who is drafting the legislation, have made amnesty for illegal aliens the centerpiece of their vision of immigration reform. That vision of immigration reform is not shared by the vast majority of Americans. Between now and the expected 2010 legislative battle, FAIR will work to educate the American public about the consequences of an illegal alien amnesty. ■

## FAIR Leads the Effort to Inform Americans About Illegal Aliens and Health Care

**F**AIR’s mission is to educate the American people about immigration and how it affects their lives. Once again, as lawmakers attempt to include illegal aliens for coverage under the America’s Affordable Health Care Act of 2009 (AAHCA), H.R. 3200, FAIR demonstrated its ability serve as the public’s eyes and ears on immigration issues.

When FAIR’s government relations staff analyzed H.R. 3200 and discovered that there were gaping loopholes that would allow illegal aliens to enroll in a government-funded health insurance program, and allow them to take advantage of government affordability credits to purchase private insurance, FAIR demonstrated its ability to get this important information to the public. Many in the media — and by extension, their readers, listeners and viewers — learned about the omissions and loopholes in the bill, designed to benefit illegal aliens, from FAIR.

Over a two-week period in late July and early August, FAIR representatives appeared on 34 local and national talk radio programs to discuss how the House bill would allow illegal aliens to benefit from the proposed health care overhaul. In addition, FAIR spokespeople appeared on the national cable news networks, Fox and MSNBC, to discuss the issue.

FAIR also posted detailed information about how illegal aliens would benefit under H.R. 3200 on its website. In addition to reaching the public through the mainstream media, FAIR was able to disseminate this important information using Twitter and Facebook.

Because of FAIR’s efforts to educate the public, the loopholes in H.R. 3200 that would entitle illegal aliens to receive tax-payer funded health care were exposed, thereby giving Americans the opportunity to raise their concerns with lawmakers during the August congressional recess. ■

FAIR invites you to join a dedicated group of FAIR members who provide steady contributions that enable us to remain at the forefront of the fight for immigration reform. This special group is the *Cornerstone Contributors*, a fitting name given its foundational importance to FAIR's work.

*Cornerstone Contributors* provide FAIR with a reliable source of support and allows us to sustain our public policy efforts here in Washington, D.C. and across the country.

The benefits of becoming a *Cornerstone Contributor* are. . .

- No fundraising mailings throughout the year,
- automatic membership renewal,
- semi-annual President's Reports containing in-depth information on FAIR's continuing efforts, and
- a thank you gift for stepping up your commitment.

Please contact Melissa Bradley-Wilson at  
 (202) 328-7004 or missy@fairus.org to become a  
**Cornerstone Contributor** today.



**Here's an Additional Contribution. Keep up the Good Work!**

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# We Couldn't Do It Without You!

*As the staff and directors of FAIR work every day for true immigration reform, we never forget one simple fact: We couldn't do it without your support. It's you — FAIR's 250,000 members and activists — who make it possible to wage this battle on behalf of America's future.*

*As FAIR marks its 30th anniversary, the staff and board of directors want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your support and dedication to this very important cause.*



FAIR is one of a select few charitable organizations certified by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. You can be sure we are operating responsibly and are committed to ethical standards.