

Better Late Than Never, Real Document Reform Proposed

In the aftermath of the 9/11 Commission report detailing the role of document fraud in the 2001 attacks on America, and the Time Magazine exposé on the continuing lack of attention being paid to the homeland security posed by lax immigration enforcement, two senior House members have introduced legislation that would address some of the glaring weaknesses noted by the Commission and Time.

The "Illegal Immigration and Social Security Protection Act of 2004," H.R. 5111, introduced by Representatives David Dreier (R-CA) and Silvestre Reyes (R-TX), would establish a counterfeit-resistant and electronically verifiable Social Security card that all workers would be required to use when they start a new job. The new cards, which would include a photograph, would replace the existing easily counterfeitable paper documents that have not changed much since the Roosevelt Administration.

The sponsors of the bill are two influential members of Congress. Dreier chairs the powerful House Rules Committee, and Reyes, a former Border Patrol Chief, was until recently the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Both men were careful to point out

that these new Social Security documents would not serve as a national ID, but rather as a document that would be needed only for limited purposes, such as obtaining a job.

The proposal includes real penalties against employers who fail to verify the eligibility of new workers. Violations of the law would result in fines of up to \$50,000 per illegal worker and up to five years in prison for hiring a known illegal alien. Verification would be required only for people starting new jobs. Those remaining in their current jobs would not be affected.

Dreier stated that this legislation would address the magnet of jobs that draws illegal aliens to the U.S. and a threat that "undermines our national security." Eighteen years after passage of a law making it unlawful to hire illegal aliens, a "smart" Social Security document would "finally fulfill the promise of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 by establishing fair and enforceable employer sanctions provisions, eliminating the incentive for millions of people to cross our borders illegally in search of work," said Dreier.

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Attention Federal Employees!



Federal employees can help in the fight for sound immigration policies by supporting FAIR in the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Look for us under the Human Care Charities of America in your CFC brochure, listed under our full name, Federation for American Immigration Reform. **Our CFC number is 1211.** Please designate #1211 on your

Combined Federal Campaign pledge form.

FAIR is participating in several corporate and state employee campaigns, as well. Check your workplace-giving brochure to see if we're listed; if not, find out if your campaign accepts write-ins.

Also, we're looking for volunteers to hand out FAIR CFC fliers. If interested, please call Marjorie Wilkinson at FAIR, 202-328-7004, or email margie@fairus.org. Thank you!