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## SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL FIGHTING FOR SECURE, LEGAL IMMIGRATION

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### **Successfully Pushed for Greater Employer Enforcement of Immigration Law.**

Throughout her time in the U.S. Senate, Sen. McCaskill has consistently pushed for a crackdown on employers who knowingly employ undocumented workers. In January 2009, during the confirmation hearings for Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, McCaskill questioned her about the country's dismal record of prosecuting employers who ignore immigration laws and how the Obama Administration planned to address it. And in April 2009, during confirmation hearings for John Morton, head of DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), McCaskill urged Morton to prioritize employer enforcement activities. Just one week later, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued new guidelines and regulations that increased attention and resources on prosecuting employers who violate our nation's immigration laws.

**Passed Deficit-Neutral Bill to Strengthen Border Security.** In 2010, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) to introduce S. 3721, legislation to invest \$600 million in border security without adding to the country's deficit. The bill provided \$254 million for additional border personnel, \$14 million for communications equipment, \$32 million for unmanned aerial vehicle surveillance on the border, \$6 million to deploy forward-operating bases along the border, \$80 million for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and \$214 million for additional justice and judicial capabilities. To offset these costs, the bill raised fees on companies that choose to outsource high-paying American jobs. The Senate unanimously passed the bill as H.R. 6080, and it was signed into law just one week after it was introduced.

**Opposed Providing a Path to Citizenship for Illegal Immigrants.** In 2007, Sen. McCaskill voted, against her party, to oppose an immigration reform bill that would have provided a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the United States. The bill, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007 (S. 1348), would have established a "Z visa" program through which most illegal immigrants would be provided a path to citizenship. McCaskill opposed final passage of this bill, and also voted in favor of an amendment offered by Sen. David Vitter (R-LA) that would have stripped the Z visa program from the bill had the underlying bill passed.

**Supported Greater Oversight of the H-1B Visa Program.** Sen. McCaskill has consistently voted in favor of strengthening the H-1B visa, a program that allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in highly skilled, specialty occupations. McCaskill has supported efforts to strengthen this program by cutting down on fraud and increasing enforcement of laws already on the books. For example, in 2007 she voted in favor of an amendment to the FY 2007 Homeland

Security Appropriations Bill that would have ordered employment eligibility verification improvements for the H-1B program. And in 2009, McCaskill voted for legislation to ensure that U.S. employers seeking to hire H-1B visa holders meet all necessary H-1B requirements.

**Passed Legislation to Crack Down on Border Tunnels.** In June 2011, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) to introduce the Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2011 (S. 1236), legislation intended to combat the growing use of underground tunnels along the U.S.-Mexico border to smuggle drugs, guns and persons into the country. Specifically, the bill would increase penalties for those who construct or finance border tunnels and would require the Department of Homeland Security to submit an annual report to Congress on the use of tunnels along the southern border and DHS efforts to address the problem. S. 1236 passed the Senate by unanimous consent in January 2012.

**Demanded a Crack Down on Private Colleges that Were Issuing Student Visas but Not Providing Academic Services.** In March 2011, following news of federal raids on “sham universities” in California and Florida, Sen. McCaskill took action with a bipartisan coalition of her colleagues to crack down on schools that exist not to provide an education, but to issue student visas to foreigners who merely seek entry to the United States. McCaskill, along with Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) demanded a Government Accountability Office investigation of these institutions and the offices within the Department of Homeland Security charged with oversight and accreditation of the schools. Additionally, Sen. McCaskill sponsored legislation (S. 523) that would provide for enhanced penalties for school officials who fraudulently seek federal accreditation for their institutions.

**Worked with DHS to Improve Local-Federal Coordination in Instances When Illegal Immigrants are Detained.** In February 2010, two separate incidents occurred where local law enforcement officials apprehended, and were later forced to release, over a dozen suspected undocumented immigrants working on local construction sites in St. Francois County. Sen. McCaskill questioned Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on how the federal government can better coordinate with local officials to identify, apprehend, and deport those found to be working illegally. At McCaskill’s urging, the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency worked with local officials to provide training on issues such as document verification and the various immigration enforcement agencies and their responsibilities.