

9/11 Families for a Secure America Newsletter April 18, 2003

Board of Advisers

David Schippers, a lawyer in private practice in Chicago, former US Attorney, and former Chief Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee in the matter of the impeachment of then-President Clinton, has agreed to become the first member of our Board of Advisers.

Mr. Schippers is highly respected, and a man of absolute and unquestioned integrity. It is a great compliment to us that he has agreed to give us his support.

The Website www.9-11fsa.org

Bruce DeCell is taking over responsibility for the website. He is working with Bill Doyle and a website developer who is a friend of Bill's.

Virginia

The bill to prohibit issuing drivers' licenses to illegals was signed into law by Gov. Warner, much to the shock and dismay of our opponents. You may remember that Virginia had provided the licenses that many of the 9/11 hijackers used as the "valid ID" required to be allowed to board the planes.

Connecticut

The bill to ban issuance of drivers' licenses to illegal aliens passed the House –Senate Joint Transportation Committee 23 to 3 on March 31, and is moving through the necessary legislative legal reviews required by law.

Several of our members were in Hartford again lobbying for the bill, now known as SB926, on Tuesday April 15. We had a very favorable reception, with a one exception.

We are optimistic. Nevertheless, we have to worry about what the press may do in an attempt to kill the bill. It's possible we will see intense and biased coverage similar to what the NY Times published two weeks ago.

A copy of our resolution in support of SB926 and the more complete list of reasons explaining the need for the bill was sent to all 176 members of the House and Senate on April 13.

Maryland

In March, with our testimony in the House Judiciary Committee, it seemed we had succeeded in stopping Delegate Vallario's bill, HB838, to permit drivers' licenses to be issued to illegals. However, a few weeks later it was approved by the Judiciary Comm., of which Vallario is Chairman.

Absolutely reliable sources in the Maryland legislature have informed us that passage was accomplished by misleading legislators into believing that the bill had been gutted. Those who favor giving DLs to illegals apparently misled opponents, saying that the revised bill merely created a task force to look into the idea of giving licenses to illegals. Relying on the presumed integrity of their colleagues some legislators then voted

for the bill. In fact, the bill also contained language to allow licenses for illegals, a fact that became known after approval of the bill in committee.

Such are the methods used by our opponents.

Thanks to FAIR, a radio spot was produced asking the Governor of Maryland to veto the bill, and that spot will air over 80 times.

Georgia

An amendment to give DLs to illegals was slipped into a revenue bill. Jim Staudenraus of FAIR found out about it, contacted some of the leaders of the legislature and suggested that this might not be a wise move. The amendment was killed.

Tennessee and North Carolina

In both states it is currently legal to issue DLs to illegal aliens. Bills have been introduced in both legislatures to end this practice.

Tennessee Gov. Bredesen has said the state 'needs the revenue' from the licenses it issues to illegals. With this philosophy he could increase state revenue even more by selling permits to commit murder or bank robbery.

A member of 9/11FSA will give testimony in the Tennessee legislature Wednesday, and in the North Carolina legislature on Thursday in support of these bills.

Portland, Maine

The city council will hold a hearing on May 5 on the proposed ordinance that forbids city police from asking subjects about their immigration status.

We have already gotten some air time on Maine's largest radio station, WGAN. The news director would like those of us who attend the city council hearing to come to the station and participate in a half hour program devoted to the issue.