

CONNECTICUT

Immigration lawyers have been in Hartford attempting to mislead legislators into believing that SB926 will keep **legal** aliens from getting licenses. Of course, this is not true. The bill will deny licenses only to illegals

A member of the State Commission on Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs sent an email to all members of the legislature making the usual misleading claims about the bill, the same claims made in every state such bills have been proposed. A point by point refutation of that email has been sent in response.

We are told by very good sources that support for the bill remains strong in both parties, however, we will have to return to Hartford to lobby before the bill comes to a floor vote.

Tennessee and North Carolina

Jim Staudenraus has coordinated the local activists' and elected officials' efforts and worked to get us together with them. He's done terrific work.

In North Carolina, Sen. Shubert and Rep Barnhart of N.C. and local activist Ron Woodard have done an enormous amount of work in the last few years. In Tenn., activist Owen Burnett, and Rep. Donna Rowland and Sen. Ketron have similarly devoted a lot of time and energy to our issues. Any success our issues are having is due entirely to them. All I did was show up and present our case.

In both these state our allies tend to be Republicans, and the main sponsors of the bills are Republican.

TENNESSEE

Sen. Ketron and Rep Donna Rowland are the primary sponsors in Tenn. They are getting good press on this.

A 9/11 FSA member spoke at a hearing of the House Transportation Committee on Wednesday, April 23. Approximately 23 members were present.

Immediately before our testimony, the committee voted on a bill to prohibit acceptance of Mexico's consular ID cards for identification purposes by the State of Tennessee. The committee voted unanimously for the bill, so it looks very promising for our side on the DL issue.

The drivers' license bill was considered next. I hoped that the good vote on the Mexican consular IDs meant there would be no opposition to the bill to ban issuance of DLs to illegals. After we spoke it was clear that two of the members do oppose the bill. One, Rep Fowkes, said that a County Chief of Police he knows 'just **happened** to be in Nashville that day,' (in his uniform) and Fowkes just **happened** to bump into him and so he asked him to speak against the bill.

The Chief spoke immediately after we did. We almost felt sorry for him. His body language showed he was embarrassed to be where he was saying the things he was saying.

His testimony was this: It is easier and cheaper for police when traffic violators have licenses. If the violator has a license, the police can give him a ticket and let him go. If he doesn't have a license that means they have to take him to jail and that hurts the county police budget. So it's cheaper for the police if the state gives licenses to illegals.

WE ARE NOT MAKING THIS UP. HE SAID IT: IT COSTS TOO MUCH IF THEY HAVE TO ARREST THEM. As a result of this "surprise" opposition, the Chairman, an opponent of our bill postponed a vote on the bill until next week.

On the plus side, we learned that Tenn. police officers and prosecutors are circulating petitions among members of the Tenn Fraternal Order of Police in support of the DL bill.

Amusing note: The Nashville Tennessean described 9/11 Families for a Secure America as an "outside interest...pitted...against local law enforcement officials." We are wondering: if that newspaper calls us an "outside interest" what does that make illegal aliens?

Hearings are scheduled in the House and Senate Transportation Committees for Wednesday April 30. April Gallop, a 9/11FSA member, who was in the Pentagon on 9/11 and whose son (then 2 month old) was severely injured, will be addressing those committees.

MANY VERY SINCERE THANKS TO APRIL

NORTH CAROLINA

This was a wildly successful trip.

Sen. Fern Shubert and Rep Jeff Barnhart are the primary sponsors of the legislation.

We spoke at a Senate Judiciary hearing. Due to unusual circumstances each side had only 4 minutes to speak. Rep Barnhart and Sen. Shubert both told us that the other side is playing hardball on this issue and we could do the same in the hearing and the press conference they had set up. So we played hardball too.

At the hearing, the person from the other side actually said that the 9/11 hijackers did not use DLs as IDs to get on the planes that day. We will provide printed verification of the fact that most of the hijackers did use DLs and Sen. Shubert will expose to the press the other side's lie.

The press conference was very well attended by the press and members of the legislature. It became the lead item on a weekly TV show produced by the U of North Carolina that is broadcast twice on the weekends called Legislative Week in Review.

Sen. Shubert called Saturday to say that the press conference has blown the issue wide open in NC. She is not certain of victory, because of Democratic opposition in and control of the Senate. But she told me that if the Dems do kill the bill, the Repubs will take over both houses of the legislature next election. If Repubs take over the NC legislature in reliance on an immigration reform pledge that will send a message to George Bush that his plan for open borders is a bad political idea in NC.

Owen Burnett and Sen. Shubert also arranged for us to appear on WPTF in Raleigh, the main talk radio station in NC, where we was given 45 minutes to state our case and answer questions from listeners.

Those of you who would like to travel and speak at hearings and lobby, don't be shy about asking. It takes a little practice to do it but all of our members have an important story to tell. Every single member has the ability and the right to tell lawmakers what they have to do to repair the situation and prevent another 9/11.

MARYLAND

Apparently, many people have been calling the governor demanding he veto the bill to allow illegals to get DLs

Finally: A "non-cooperation" agreement like the one that has been proposed in Portland, Me. had been proposed in Port Huron, Mich. Due to a strongly worded legal brief written by Mike Hethmon, Chief Counsel at FAIR, describing the illegality of such an agreement and the exposure of the city to liability for criminal acts committed by illegals (same as NYC faces for the gang rape in Queens), the city has dropped the proposal.

