9-11 Families for a Secure America Newsletter August 17, 2003

Dear members and friends of 9-11 FSA:

On July 24 I spoke to a workshop at the annual conference of the National Council of State Legislators on in San Francisco. The topic of the conference was the issue of drivers' licenses for illegal aliens.

Also speaking were Linda Lewis, the President and CEO of the Association. Of American Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), and Tyler Moran of the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), a group which lobbies for "rights" for illegal aliens.

Ms. Lewis of AAMVA spoke first and presented a very strong argument in support of a flat ban on issuing DLs to illegals.

This statement in S.F. by AAMVA's president was a very public, very clear demonstration of support for the ban.

In my speech to the delegates besides making our usual points on the dangers of giving drivers' licenses to millions of unidentified illegal aliens, including the criminals and terrorists among them, I noted that of the 13 board members of 9-11FSA one is an immigrant herself, 11 are the children or grandchildren of immigrants, one is Hispanic, one is African-American. Ms Moran of the NILC spoke after me and accused us of being "anti-immigrant."

Sitting in the front row of the audience was Del. Vallario, the Maryland legislator who was the main force behind the newly enacted law to permit issuance of DLs to illegals. I pointed out that Maryland had, by eliminating the social security number requirement, acted by subterfuge to grant illegals the right to get Md. licenses.

The moderator of the program was Mike Weaver, a Democratic Ky. State Rep. Mr Weaver was the prime mover behind 2002 legislation to strengthen Kentucky DL law, including strict security measures on the license itself, and a legal presence requirement. His legislation made Kentucky's DL the most secure in the entire US. He would like 9-11FSA to work with him on additional measures to prevent illegal aliens from continuing to take jobs from Tenneseans.

On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday Aug 3-5 Rick Oltman and Jim Staudenraus of FAIR and I attended the biennial national convention of the Fraternal Order of Police in Providence, R.I.

The FOP is a national police union that represents line officers, the ones who risk their lives every day on the streets. Rick had arranged for FAIR to have an exhibitor's booth and I manned the booth with them. Working with us was Owen Burnett, an Assistant County Prosecutor from Tenn. who is one of the most hard working and effective volunteers for immigration reform I have ever worked with. Owen is a member of the FOP and attended the convention as a delegate.

We talked with police officers from all over the US. Those attending as delegates were both current and retired officers who are active in the FOP. Line officers are overwhelmingly in favor of being permitted to enforce immigration laws, in favor of bans on licenses for illegals 9-11 Families for a Secure America Newsletter August 17, 2003 Page 2 and in favor of bans on recognition of phony ID like consular cards. They recognize that these policies are necessary to protect their own safety. In these views they are in direct opposition to the chiefs and the politicians who run their departments.

These men and women are solidly with us on these issues They are angry and frustrated about the regulations that the political types have imposed on them which endanger the lives of those who patrol the streets. As delegates and active union members they represent the line officers of their departments, and they all said that they would bring up these issues with their union locals.

We had highly encouraging meetings with union officials as well. Representing as they do the officers whose lives are at risk on a daily basis, their view on the issues were the same as their members.

Many of you will be aware of the illegal alien "Freedom Ride." This is a planned series of bus trips to begin Sept 20 in various cities, merging in DC and ending in NYC on Oct 3. They plan a demonstration at Liberty State Park in NJ and then a rally at Flushing Meadow Park. The website for the "Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is http://www.iwfr.org/endorsement.asp

Jim McDonald, a Virginia immigration reform activist is planning a counter demonstration on Liberty Island. He is in the process of getting the permits. These will allow 200 of us to demonstrate for 2 hours on Oct 3 and 4. Email me if you want more information on the counter demonstration.

On September 10 there will be a press conference sponsored by the House Immigration Reform Caucus and Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.). Relatives of five of the 9-11 victims will speak about the major role that failure to enforce immigration and visa laws played in permitting the 9-11 murderers to carry out their conspiracy.

We all know that Congress was responsible for that failure. Members of both parties have been doing the bidding of the open borders crowd and depriving the INS (now called BICE) and the State Department of the resources needed to enforce the law.

This press conference is part of our plan to take the issue to the voters. Those responsible for the policies that led to the deaths of our loved ones must be held accountable.

Regards, Peter