

Newsletter January 30, 2004: A summary of our activities in 2003

Members and Friends of 9/11 Families for a Secure America,

Our first newsletter of 2004 is a review of our group's work in 2003. The purpose is to provide a summary for all of our members, and to give those who joined us recently an idea of what we have accomplished in our first year of existence.

In 2003 9/11 FSA members and friends traveled to the following states to testify at legislative hearings and/or to speak with legislators: Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, and Virginia. One of our members spoke at hearing of the Portland, Maine City Council

Many of our members traveled on several occasions to talk to members of the US House of Representatives and the US Senate.

We participated in a major press conference at the US Capitol sponsored by the House Immigration Reform Caucus.

We have provided written testimony for the legislatures of Kansas and Oklahoma, where our statements were read into the record by legislators who favor secure borders.

We worked with former Gov. Richard Lamm of Colorado in a successful effort to pass legislation requiring state agencies to recognize only secure identification.

We spoke in support of secure borders in dozens of radio and television interviews and were quoted by numerous newspapers and on-line publications.

One of our members attended and spoke at the FBI's Advisory Policy Board, a conference of high level police officials from across the country. Another addressed the National Conference of State Legislatures. We participated as exhibitors in the bi-annual Fraternal Order of Police convention. We have met with and established continuing contact with state officials across the country.

We have also begun the creation of a Board of Advisors of distinguished Americans.

We have established a website www.911fsa.org

Our thirteen member board of directors is multi-racial and multi-ethnic, and includes an immigrant and the children and grandchildren of immigrants. In this, our board reflects our membership. We have members in thirty-three states.

Board of Advisers

We are privileged in that two distinguished Americans have agreed to be the first members of our Board of Advisers. They both have established themselves as men who refuse to be silent when issues affecting the welfare of our country are at issue.

Richard D. Lamm of Colorado, is Co-Director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies at the University of Denver, and former three-term Governor of Colorado (1975-1987). He is a lawyer and certified public accountant. He joined the faculty of the University of Denver in 1969 and, except for his years as Governor, been associated with the University ever since. Gov. Lamm has appeared on virtually every national news program including: Today, Meet the Press, Face the Nation, Good Morning America, the Lehrer NewsHour. He has written op-ed pieces for the NY Times, S.F. Chronicle, Newsday, L.A. Times, Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor and others. He is the author or co-author of six books, including *The Immigration Time Bomb: the Fragmenting of America*, with Gary Imhoff (Dutton, 1985). He was an early leader of the environmental movement and is now running for a seat on the Board of the Sierra Club.

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David Schippers of Illinois Mr. Schippers is a partner in the law firm of Schippers & Bailey. The firm specializes in trust law, labor law, trials and appeals in the state and federal courts of Illinois and throughout the country. From 1963 to 1967 he was a member and then chief of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the US Department of Justice in Chicago. He has taught trial advocacy at the Willamette University School of Law in Salem, Oregon, and at the United States Air Force Air University in Montgomery, Alabama. In April 1998, he was appointed chief investigative counsel for the United States House of Representatives' Committee on the Judiciary; first handling the investigative issues and investigations relating to the committee's oversight investigation of the U.S. Department of Justice and all of its sub-agencies. In December 1998, he charged with reviewing and reporting on the Referral of the Office of Independent Counsel concerning possible impeachment offenses committed by President Clinton. He was then responsible for conducting the impeachment inquiry authorized by the House of Representatives and reporting the results to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Following is a summary of our work for secure borders:

Congress

Many 9/11 FSA members have traveled to Washington to speak with Senators and Representatives on several occasions. Our largest single lobbying event occurred in mid-October, when twelve 9/11 family members spent three days at the Capitol meeting with sixty-eight members of Congress and/or their legislative assistants. Although we concentrated on Members from the Northeast, we also spoke with members of various immigration and homeland defense related committees, and others. It is safe to say that our group has begun to develop reputation among members of Congress.

A public service announcement (paid for in part by the Federation for American Immigration Reform) about the role played by open borders in permitting the 9/11 attacks was run on many television programs in the D.C. area in the days before the 2nd anniversary of the attacks, and this helped considerably in letting Members know that the 9/11 families will hold them to account for their votes affecting the security of our borders.

In all, our members had face to face meetings with over one hundred members of Congress.

In addition, we contacted many more Members by phone and email asking them to support specific pieces of legislation.

As long as there are huge profits to be made from illegal immigration, and as long as the Rockefeller/Ford Foundations and other ideologically motivated groups such as LaRaza, continue to disregard the needs and security of Americans there will be a pressing need for 9/11FSA members to contact their Representatives and Senators.

This is one area where we are always in need of volunteers, both relatives of 9/11 victims as well as those not related to victims: either to contact Members by fax, phone and email, or to travel to the Members' district offices or D.C. offices to speak directly to them.

If you are willing to help in this contact a 9/11FSA board member 911fsa@charter.net

VIRGINIA

As you know, Virginia was one three states (along with NJ and Fla.) that provided drivers licenses to the 9/11 terrorists. These licenses were the "valid ID" which allowed many of the terrorists to board the planes they used to kill our loved ones.

State Sen. Jay O'Brien and Delegate David Albo introduced a bill to outlaw this practice. 9/11 FSA members worked with local activists and together we provided the support needed to get this bill passed overwhelmingly in both houses and then signed into law by Gov. Warner, despite strong opposition by the open borders exploiters.

(Both Florida and New Jersey had, after 9/11, banned issuance of licenses to illegals)

MARYLAND

Unfortunately, the General Assembly passed and the Gov. Ehrlich signed a bill that permits those without Social Security Numbers (illegal aliens) to obtain drivers licenses, official I.D. for boarding airliners. However, due to our participation the main sponsor of the bill, Del. Joe Vallario, was forced to resort to subterfuge to get the bill passed. Originally, the bill openly barred the Motor Vehicle Administrator from asking about the legal status of the applicant. This language had to be changed in an effort to fool the voters. The new language didn't mention legal status, but it did remove the requirement that illegal aliens must provide Social Security Numbers. To get the bill passed, the illegal alien lobby then falsely proclaimed that the new wording **did not** permit illegals to get licenses, when in fact it does exactly that. Mr. Vallario was also forced to include provision for a commission to look into the matter further, thus leaving open the possibility of reform.

This was an important defeat for us and to the cause of secure borders. However, out of this defeat there may spring future victories. Recently, members of the General Assembly introduced a package bills that would repeal the Vallario bill and also limit the ability of illegal aliens to take jobs from and threaten the safety of Americans. The public attention on the issue resulting from the 9/11 Families' participation, may provide new support for these bills.

NORTH CAROLINA

This state is one of the worst in handing out licenses to illegals. State Sen. Fern Shubert introduced [SB531](#) to ban this practice, and 9/11 FSA members traveled to Raleigh to speak to legislators and testify at hearings and speak to legislators. Our visits resulted in a great deal of media interest and as a result considerably increased support among the public and legislators for SB531.

Sen. Shubert's bill passed several legislative hurdles, and was ready for a Senate vote when procedural moves blocked consideration prior to adjournment. However, the bill remains on the legislative calendar and work on passage will continue when the General Assembly reconvenes.

Importantly, Gov. Easley, who had opposed the Shubert bill and any attempt to keep licenses out of the hands of illegals recently (it's an election year) realized the wisdom of joining the side of immigration reform. He issued instructions to his Motor Vehicle Commissioner to restrict issuance of new N.C. drivers' licenses to applicants with valid Social Security Numbers, and others who have proven legal presence in the US.

Sen. Shubert is running for the Republican nomination for Governor, and it remains essential to pass her bill so that the new regulations are embedded in state law.

TENNESSEE

This state, like N.C., also gives drivers licenses to illegals and the unknown terrorists among them. Sen. Bill Ketron and Rep. Donna Rowland introduced [SB1188/HB1790](#) to end this practice. 9/11 FSA members attended and spoke at two committee hearings, and generated considerable media coverage and public support. As in N.C. the bill was moving through the legislative process, but opponents kept it from coming to a vote before adjournment. The process will continue when the legislature reconvenes.

MAINE

The Portland City Council, after intense lobbying by the usual open borders supporters, passed an ordinance that prevents city police from asking people in custody about their immigration status, even if illegal status is clear, and also prohibits them from reporting known illegals to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). A 9/11 FSA member traveled to Portland to ask the Council not to pass this bill which clearly abets illegal immigration.

It is particularly disturbing that Portland's council would pass such a bill given the fact that on the morning of September 11, it was from Portland's airport that many of the hijackers started out on their mission of mass murder.

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The people of Portland should feel shame that they continue to support massive illegal immigration and thus terrorism.

ILLINOIS

In November, the General Assembly was ready to pass a bill (SB67) giving drivers' licenses to illegals and terrorists, and Gov Blagojevich had committed himself to signing it into law if passed. The Senate actually voted on it with 26 for and 25 opposed. However, 29 votes were required for passage, and a second vote was scheduled for November 17.

On November 14, a 9/11 FSA member flew to Springfield and spoke to the Republican Senate members, and spoke to several Democratic members as well. The result was a loss of support for the bill and it was not called up for a vote.

Sen. Chris Lauzen, one of the main opponents of SB67, gives much of the credit for defeating the bill to the 9/11 families.

CONNECTICUT

State laws do not ban issuance of licenses to illegals, but Gov. Rowland's DMV Commissioner requires that applicants prove legal presence in the US.

To embed this requirement in law, we worked with Senators and Representatives of both political parties in support of a bill to accomplish this. Here too, opponents ran out the clock to prevent a floor vote.

Although we were stopped in 2003, we have continued to work with the leadership of both parties in both houses, and are very confident license reform will pass in 2004.

COLORADO

We worked with former Gov. Richard Lamm in support of Bill 03-1224 which requires secure ID for most transactions with the State government. We provided the Governor with a statement which he read at legislative hearings, speaking to the Legislature for the first time since leaving office fifteen years ago. The Governor wrote that our letter was "a powerful reason" the bill made it out of House committee, and was also an important reason the bill was passed by a Senate committee. The bill was then passed by both houses and signed into law by Gov. Bill Owens

In nearly all of the states we worked in our members appeared on numerous radio programs talking about all issues related to border security, and we gained considerable coverage in newspapers as well. It is fair to say the 9/11 FSA members have affected the course of legislation in several states. In those places where we did not achieve our goals we did nevertheless gain the attention and support of the public and therefore increased the chances of success in coming legislative sessions.

In short, we have established ourselves as an effective supporter of secure border legislation in the Congress and the state legislatures.