

STUPID verses COMMON SENSE

The Senate Bill - OR - The House Bill

This is not fiction. Sadly, this story is true. It is the story of 2 Bills (and I don't mean men with that name.) This story takes place in Washington D.C. and it is truly a story of stupidity versus common sense.

Both the Senate and the House have written Bills that deal with recommendations made by the 911 commission. The commission made 41 recommendations. Here is where the story gets interesting.

The Senate has decided that instead of addressing all 41 recommendations it would not deal with those having to do with border security and states issuing drivers' licenses for terrorists. The focus of the Senate bill, called "Collins, Lieberman, McCain" is simply "Intelligence reform", which is a joke. (A very sad joke at that) They believe that we can't make this country safe, without having this "powerful", strong leader of National Intelligence, but at the same time this Senate bill would leave our borders wide open to terrorists.

As you know, the 911 Families for a Secure America have been working hard for two and a half years now to get tougher on the illegal immigration issues and to change the immigration laws. We have been fighting to mandate secure drivers license laws in all fifty states. We have been to Washington many times to lobby against AgJobs amnesty and Dream Act amnesty. We have been to hearings on the driver's license issues. We went to the hearings in NY where the Commissioner of the DMV was being raked over the coals for checking the social security numbers of every person that has a New York driver's license to make sure that they were valid social security numbers. These are the issues that we believe (as do most Americans) are the two greatest failures of 9/11.

We understand that our intelligence agencies (FBI, CIA, etc.) failed too, however they did not allow those murderers into this country and they did not give them the driver's licenses they needed to board the planes. That was done through "visa express", immigration failure and lax state driver's license laws. Both our national and foreign intelligence failed because they didn't communicate and share information with each other. Those in charge of intelligence (and I use that word intelligence loosely) should be held accountable for their failure. The money, power and know how was in place on 911 to do their job, but too many egos got in the way. But even if we do

manage to repair our intelligence services, that does nothing to secure our borders...and the Senate bill does nothing in that area.

The House leadership introduced a bill, HR10 that enacts ALL of the Commission's recommendations. On October 1, then on October 13,14 &15 on October 27 and 28 I was in Washington with Bruce DeCell, Colette Lafuente, and Deborah Burlingame and Peter Gadiel to do press conferences and to lobby in support of the House Bill. The members of the House understand full well the need to protect our boarders and drivers' licenses. They understand what failed on 9/11 and they want to make the changes necessary to do that. Like the 911 FSA families, the representative of the House believe that the immigration reform and secure drivers' license issues are a matter of life and death, the life and death of our children and grandchildren.

Because the House and Senate passed different bills, a House-Senate conference was necessary. The first and only public hearing of the conferees working for a compromise of both Bills was for me a warning as to what was on the minds of those who support the Senate Bill. It was clear that they wanted it THEIR WAY OR NO WAY. I introduced myself to Congressman Menendez chairman of the Democratic Caucus, as a 9/11 family member and said that I was there to support HR10. As soon as I said that, the smile left his face and he dropped my hand (which he had been shaking) and stated, "There will be NO IMMIGRATION REFORM in any Bill that they pass." Those supporting the Senate Bill said again and again that the issues of immigration and drivers licenses were just too controversial and here's the best "they are non- essential issues." NON-ESSENTIAL!!! I was dumbfounded. The two main failures that allowed our loved ones to be murdered on 9/11, were being called NON-ESSENTIAL!!!!!!!

It is amazing, though NOT surprising how STUPID supposedly smart people can be. What also amazed and surprised me was that the people who wrote the final report for the 911 Commission were now back peddling at full speed. They were supporting the Senate Bill and were in full agreement that the "other issues were non-essential and controversial." Why did they bother to write 41 recommendations of change, if they weren't going to back them up? Oh well, you know what Forest Gump said "stupid is as stupid does." I'm finding out that Washington DC is full of stupid, and DC must stand for "dumb critters."

The 9/11 Steering committee (a group of maybe 12, with no membership) has been in Washington DC saying that they represent the 9/11 families, which is not true. They have stood with the Senate and are in full support of their Bill. Now to be fair, these women were told that if the Senate Bill was passed before the election they would come back and address the issues of immigration and drivers' licenses later. Well part of that is true. They will come back to the immigration issue and it will be in the form of amnesty. The drivers' licenses will be left to each state. These poor women have been spoon fed a lot of lies and sorry to say, they have believed them. I was told by Beverly Eckert that if the Senate Bill was passed, Kerry would sign it into law if he should become President. That is what Kerry told her and the rest of the steering committee. (9/11 FSA does not endorse any candidates.) Another bit of garbage going down their throats. Kerry has also stated publicly that if he were elected President, he would support Dream Act Amnesty. Bush has said publicly that he knows we have a problem with illegal immigration. He said "I don't think that we should give them amnesty."

We the 9/11 FSA members feel that since no Bill has been passed, we have won a small battle, and we do mean small. With the elections over this will become a very hot issue again. We do not want to see a worthless, empty, unfair, unjust, un-protective Bill passed. There will be time in the Lame Duck session to work on changes to both Bills and come up with the right Bill. For this to happen however, we need to put pressure on the Senators and Congressmen who do not support HR10. The House has presented compromises to the Senate regarding changes in the immigration reform (the expedition of deporting illegal immigrants), but the Senate refuses to talk about anything other than intelligence issues. Senator Collins and Lieberman (who wrote the Senate Bill) and the other Senators have come to the conference with closed minds and hearts. The failure of any Bill passing is on the shoulders those who refuse to compromise. The Senators or congressmen who refuse to do the right thing, the just thing and pass a Bill that includes immigration reform and secure drivers' licenses will be held accountable in the event of another attack on this country.

The members of the House with wisdom and intelligence have written and supported HR10, a Bill that will truly protect this country and the sisters, brothers and children our loved ones left behind. The 9/11FSA families say thank you for having the courage to do what is right. We ask that you continue to stay strong. When the pressure comes (and it will come) we will

be behind you with all the support we can muster. Our loved ones faced death with more courage than most can imagine, we ask you to do the same. To the Senators (list their names.) who have written letters in support of HR10, the 911 FSA families say thank you for your courage in standing up to your fellow Senators. This country was built on the courage of a few for the benefit of all. Thank you for showing courage at a time it is most needed.

The Board of 911 Families for a secure America.