

9/11 Families for a Secure America

The families of the victims of September 11, 2001

Box 911-159 47-01 Greenpoint Ave. NY NY 11104
www.911fsa.org 911fsa@charter.net

Newsletter, November 24, 2004

Review of Events of the Last Month and Our Efforts to Help Pass a Meaningful 9/11 Implementation Act

Given the campaign of disinformation conducted by Senators Collins, Lieberman, and others in the last four days, there is confusion over the last minute success of our House allies in killing the 9/11 Commission Bill that emerged Saturday from the House-Senate Conference. To clarify, here is a brief review.

In September, the Senate passed what it claimed was a "9/11 Commission Recommendations Implementation Act," known by its main sponsors as Collins-Lieberman-McCain. It lacked any border security provisions, and included a provision that specifically permitted states to go on granting licenses to illegals and thus the unknown terrorists among them. (It would be more appropriate to call it the "Collin-Lieberman Drivers' Licenses for Terrorists Bill.") Tragically, a small group of family members was persuaded to support this legislation.

By the end of September it appeared this fraudulent Collins bill was certain to pass, but the House leadership was pushing HR 10 which included a range of border security, anti-matrícula and secure DL provisions. To help gain passage of HR 10, 9/11 FSA members spoke at three press conferences: one with the entire House leadership and two more with other House members.

On October first, members of 9/11 FSA attended a press conference staged by Shays and Maloney and these 9/11 family members expressed to Maloney their anger about the absolute lack of border security in Collins bill. Throughout October and November our members have been personally lobbying many Members of Congress or lobbied by phone to express opposition to the Senate's Terrorist Licensing Bill, and our support for HR10. No one in Congress can be unaware that families of 9/11FSA strongly oppose the Senate bill.

Also in October, the House passed HR 10 (the good bill) in a bi-partisan vote 282-134. After this, the two bills went to a House-Senate Conference to iron out the differences.

In the House Senate Conference Committee although Reps. Sensenbrenner and Hunter have made many attempts to compromise by gradually stripping more and more of the border security measures from the bill, Collins and Lieberman refused to compromise at all.

By Saturday November 20, the House conferees had compromised so much that the only important provision left was that which discouraged states from giving drivers' licenses to illegal aliens. When Collins and Lieberman insisted on removing even that, Mr. Sensenbrenner gave up and refused to agree.

Despite the Senate's failure to negotiate in good faith, the House leadership was set to cave in and bring the Senate bill (the bad bill) to a floor vote where passage was nearly certain. The only way to derail the bill was through a petition signed by 50 House Republicans calling for a meeting of the Republican members to demand that the Speaker label the bill a Democrat measure. This manoeuver was successful and the Open Borders Act was stopped.

However, in a well orchestrated effort to conceal the true reason (border security) that the House killed the bill, Sen. Collins, Lieberman, Pat Roberts, and Reps Jane Harman and others have falsely stated that Reps Sensenbrenner and Hunter are only concerned about "turf".... losing control of the intelligence oversight power. These open borders people have not stopped and it is clear they intend to pass their bill in December. They are also saying that Donald Rumsfeld is defying the President and opposing the bill for these same turf reasons. This is an attempt to embarrass the President into giving more support to the bill on the basis that his failure to do so will show his inability to control his own cabinet.

The open borders forces have planned a press conference for Tues Nov. 30, and reports on the web say that the 911 Commissioners, undermining their own Report, will be there, as will that small group of 911 family members still supporting the Senate bill.

Last night, 911FSA member Joan Molinaro appeared on the Paula Zahn Show on CNN with Kristin Breitweiser one of the twelve members of the "family steering committee" which is opposing border security.

Unfortunately, Mrs Breitweiser made several statements that were inaccurate.

1. She said that "all the 9/11 families" support the Senate's open borders bill. She is incorrect on this.
2. She said that the bill that came out of the Conference Committee has all the border security measures in it except the driver's license reform. She is incorrect again. The conference bill has NO border security in it
3. She said that the House's driver's license reforms create a "national ID card." This is false. The House bill merely encourages states to stop issuing licenses to illegals and terrorists, and to share information so that people cannot get multiple licenses.

At this moment, the House seems unwilling to surrender to the illegal alien lobby, but due to the continued efforts of the other side, we can't be certain that the battle is over.