

9/11 Families for a Secure America Newsletter December 12, 2004

Defeat of Border Security Measures in Congress is Merely a Delay

The vast majority of 911 families, and all Americans who recognize the need for secure borders, suffered a defeat in Congress this week when the "Intelligence Reform" bill was passed with nearly all secure border provisions removed.

DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

THIS IS A TEMPORARY DEFEAT, JUST A DELAY, AND WILL BE REMEDIED VERY SOON.

THE MOVEMENT TOWARD MAJOR TIGHTENING OF BORDERS IS NOW VIRTUALLY UNSTOPPABLE, AND THOSE OF YOU WITH LONG TERM EXPERIENCE IN THE MOVEMENT WILL RECOGNIZE HOW FAR WE HAVE COME IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS.

Consider the achievements of that short time:

1. In August, the leadership of the US House introduced a bill (HR10) that significantly tightened border security by including:
 - a. strong incentives to the states to end issuance of drivers' licenses to illegal aliens and the unknown terrorists among them
 - b. a ban on federal acceptance of consular I.D. cards ("matricula cards") and other such sham "identity documents."
 - c. massive increase in Border Patrol and I.C.E. agents
 - d. expedited deportation of terrorists
 - e. other major border security measures.
2. The House leadership actually defied the President for many weeks to support these provisions.
3. The House passed HR10 in a bi-partisan vote of 282 to 134, without any weakening amendments
3. When the House leadership and a Republican President surrendered to the open borders extremists, over 50 House members engaged in open, vocal revolt to support security.
4. There has been unprecedented nationwide coverage of these issues on outlets such as ABC, CBS, etc which have traditionally boycotted the issue. Newspapers such as the Christian Science Monitor editorialized in favor of border security and internal enforcement of border security laws.
5. The 9/11 Independent Commission specified that drivers' licenses are a major terrorist tool (Commission Report, page 390), and that: "border security" must be made a "cornerstone of national security policy."

If in June of this year someone had seriously claimed that any, let alone all, of these things would occur in the next few months, those of us with experience in this struggle would have said that person had lost touch with reality.

Yet all these things did occur, and now the pressure for major, real reform is overwhelming.

Throughout this legislative battle, Representative James Sensenbrenner has been magnificent. An American in the tradition of the great political heroes of our country's history. Despite vicious, false, and unrelenting attacks on him by the open borders lobby and its mouthpieces such as the NY Times, et al, he refused to abandon his principles or his fight to defend the safety of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Sensenbrenner, during the debate that resulted in delaying consideration of border security legislation, affirmed that he and dozens of other members of Congress will reintroduce this provisions and continue the momentarily interrupted process of defending our borders.