



The families of the victims of September 11, 2001  
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**9/11 FAMILIES FOR A SECURE AMERICA**  
**REVIEW OF 2004**  
**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP IN 2005**

**MANY HAVE ASKED HOW THEY CAN GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN ACHIEVING OUR GOAL OF PREVENTING MORE TERRORIST ATTACKS.**

**THIS WEEK, LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED TO TIGHTEN BORDER SECURITY, PREVENT TERRORISTS FROM ENTERING THE US, KEEP THEM FROM OBTAINING US-ISSUED IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, AND MAKE IT EASIER TO DEPORT PERSONS WHO POSE A THREAT TO OUR SECURITY.**

**THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION** we all can make is to persuade our elected officials in Congress, the White House, and the state legislatures, governors and local officials to enact legislation that will make it far more difficult for terrorists to enter the US; more difficult for them to remain unnoticed if they do get in; more difficult for them to obtain US-issued identity documents; easier to deport them once found; etc.

**THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE LIFE HARD FOR TERRORISTS** is to deprive them of the concealment provided by the many millions of other illegal aliens currently in the USA.

**IF YOU WANT TO HELP PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING** description of the last year's battle in the Congress to enact the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. It you will show you the nature of the fight in Congress why it is necessary for us, and you, to struggle to pass laws that is simple common sense and which 80% of Americans have demanded.

A note of thanks to the Family Steering Committee

9/11 Families for A Secure America acknowledges the extraordinary role played by those 9/11 families who despite overwhelming opposition from Pres. Bush and many members of both parties in Congress succeeded in shepherding to victory the legislation that created the Independent Commission. The members of that group became the Family Steering Committee and held that title during the existence of the Commission. 9/11 FSA and the Steering Committee, two entirely separate entities, had fundamental differences of opinion as to what a

final 9/11 bill should include . Nevertheless, we of 9/11 FSA recognize the importance of their achievement in getting the Commission established, and we thank them.

2004: THE STRUGGLE TO ENACT ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION  
AND OUR LOSS TO THE OPEN BORDERS LOBBYISTS

**I. The Report of the 9/11 Independent Commission**

The Commission recommended reorganizing of America's intelligence agencies, and also recommended border security and secure identification reforms.

9/11 FSA provided written testimony to the Commission. Our testimony described the major role in permitting the 9/11 attacks to occur that was played by America's wide open borders, the presence of eleven million illegal aliens and the terrorists' possession of sixty three drivers' licenses. (This testimony was included in the record of the Commission's meeting of Jan 26, 2004.)

The Commission and its staff clearly stated that the 9/11 conspiracy succeeded because the terrorists had been able to easily enter the US; had been able to remain here and operate freely with no fear of capture; had been able to easily obtain US-issued drivers' licenses which in turn allowed them do all the they needed to plan, rehearse, finance and carry out their mass murders.

Among the recommendations of the Independent Commission are these:

**“Acquisition of these [US-issued] forms of identification would have assisted them in boarding commercial flights, renting cars and other necessary activities.” “At many entry points to vulnerable facilities, including gates for boarding aircraft, sources of identification are the last opportunity to ensure that people are who they say they are and to check whether they are terrorists.” (Report page 390)**

**“ It is perhaps obvious to state that terrorists cannot plan and carry out attacks in the United States if they are unable to enter the country. Yet prior to September 11, while there were efforts to enhance border security, no agency of the U.S. government thought of border security as a tool in the counterterrorism arsenal. Indeed, even after 19 hijackers demonstrated the relative ease of obtaining a U.S. visa and gaining admission into the United States, border security still is not considered a cornerstone of national security policy. We believe, for reasons we discuss in the following pages, that it must be made one.” (Preface to the Commission Staff “Monograph on 9/11 and Terrorist Travel.”)**

Sally Regenhard, a member of the 9/11 FSA board of directors and also a member of the Steering Committee informed us that the Commission's expression of the dangers of insecure I.D. and its recommendations for reform of this situation, are due directly to the work of 9/11 FSA. Some of the phrasings are virtually identical to those which 9/11 FSA has used for the past two and one half years, and which I used in my statement for the Commission which it incorporated into the official record.

**II. Responses to the Report: The Public and the Congress**

Americans expressed overwhelming support for enactment of the Commission's forty-one recommendations. That support remained strong through the entire legislative process.

Immediately after the Report was issued Democratic and Republican Members of both House and Senate were almost unanimous and forcefully demanded that **all** the recommendations be enacted. Soon after it became clear that many in Congress objected to the recommendations dealing with secure borders and identity documents because if enacted these would restrict the ability of illegal aliens to freely enter the US and live and work here as they currently do.

Therefore, after they'd had time to digest the full meaning of the Commission Report, Democratic leaders in the House, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, and Pres. Bush all came out in opposition to the secure borders/identity documents recommendations. This faction, led by Senators Lieberman, Collins, and McCain and Representatives Maloney, Shays and Pelosi introduced a bill that only addressed intelligence reorganization and excluded any border and I.D. security reforms. Their purpose was to fool the America into thinking that Congress had enacted the Commission recommendations. However, their bill left our borders unprotected, left undisturbed the population of over 10 million illegals (with the unknown terrorists among them), and actually encouraged states to grant licenses to illegals and terrorists.

In contrast, the Republican leadership of the House kept faith with the American people by introducing HR10 which did include provisions to protect America from terrorist invasion by:

- a) streamlining and speeding up the process of deporting known terrorists and other illegals
- b) denying federal recognition of drivers' licenses from states which grant them to illegal aliens and the unknown terrorists among them). (The 9/11 terrorists possessed authentic US licenses)
- c) denying federal recognition to I.D.s issued by foreign consuls in the US to their citizens who are illegal aliens in the US. (The FBI has stated that these cards, also known as "matricula consular" are a threat to American security). The only acceptable I.D. would be a valid foreign passport or secure, US-issued documents.
- d) providing for expedited deportation of illegal aliens if they were in the US less than five years.
- e) making it more difficult for terrorists to enter the US pretending to be refugees.
- f) imposing criminal penalties for falsely claiming US citizenship.

HR10 would have made it far more difficult for future 9/11 terrorists to sneak across our borders and far more difficult for those already here to remain.

Collins, Lieberman et al. gained the support of a small minority of 9/11 families by leading them to believe that if any border security measures were included in 9/11 legislation, the Senate would kill the bill entirely. This small minority of families backed by the full resources of the open borders politicians in Congress gained media attention and persuaded much of the American public that all the families supported the Collins-Lieberman bill despite its utter disregard for border security.

As a result the Senate Intelligence Reform bill known for its main sponsors as the Collins-Lieberman-McCain Bill was passed by the Senate.

**9/11 FSA recognized that the Senate bill was a worthless half way measure fully supported HR10 with its essential reforms.** We made clear that that Collins and Lieberman and their allies could not blackmail us. 9/11 FSA was very active in working for the adoption of HR 10

### **III. The House battle to pass HR10's anti-terrorism provisions and 9/11 FSA's role in supporting HR10**

Between September and December, 9/11 FSA members appeared one or more times on Lou Dobbs Tonight, the Paula Zahn Show, Hardball with Chris Matthews, Crossfire with Paul Begala and Tucker Carlson. Our members were quoted or shown in news reports on, among

others: Fox News Channel, ABC radio network, National Public Radio. Our members gave innumerable interviews on talk radio programs throughout the country, including multiple appearances on stations in the country's largest cities . Our efforts were the subject of AP and UPI reports and TV and radio coverage on many, many occasions.

**In September and October,** at the request of Chairmen of various House committees the 9/11 FSA Board of Directors sent letters in support of, or in opposition to, various amendments to HR10. These were read in part or in full to their committees. Individual House members asked for and received letters to quote on the floor of the House. These letters were instrumental in blocking efforts to weaken HR 10.

**October 1.** A 9/11 FSA member addressed the staff of the House Immigration Reform Caucus

**October 5.** At the invitation of the House Leadership, nine members of 9/11 FSA participated in a press conference with Speaker Hastert, Majority Leader DeLay, Majority Whip Blunt, and Representatives Hoekstra and Pryce.

9/11 FSA members confronted Rep. Carolyn Maloney and others who supported the Senate version, demanding to know why they would support a bill with no border security provisions. (Rep. Maloney of Manhattan represents a district with many major banks headquartered in or near it, and has fully supported the banks' attempts to have consular ID cards recognized for US banking purposes despite the FBI's testifying that these cards are a threat to US security.)

**October 7.** Reps. Robert Menendez and Smith of New Jersey introduced an amendment that would have replaced HR 10 with the Collins-Lieberman-McCain bill, Rep. Sensenbrenner read a letter from 9/11 FSA supporting HR 10 in its strongest form; the Menendez amendment was killed.

**October 8** Rep Luis Gutierrez made one final attempt to completely destroy HR 10 in a procedural maneuver. Rep. Hostettler responded by reading another letter from 9/11 FSA. By an overwhelming bi-partisan vote, 282 to 134, the House passed HR 10 with all border security and license provisions intact. It is fair to say that 9/11 Families for a Secure America played a role in this success.

#### **IV. The fight in Conference Committee to preserve HR10's anti-terrorist provisions from being killed by the open borders lobby**

With passage of the Senate's Collins-Lieberman-McCain bill lacking any border security measures, and the House passage of HR10 with strong border security provisions the two bills had to be reconciled in Committee. 9/11 FSA was deeply involved in this phase as well.

**October 15.** Five members of 9/11FSA again spoke in support of HR10 at a press conference with Rep David Dreier.

**October 27,** Joan Molinaro, Colette Lafuente and Debra Burlingame spoke at a third Capitol Hill press conference. (You can see part of this press conference at the following link: [http://www.americanpatrol.com/ WEB2004/041028.html](http://www.americanpatrol.com/WEB2004/041028.html) )

Many 9/11 FSA members also lobbied many members of the House and Senate throughout October in support of HR10.

**On October 20,** 9/11FSA sent a letter signed by one hundred fifty relatives of 9/11 victims strongly opposing passage of any 9/11 Implementation Act without border and I.D. security measures.

Also on October 20, Board member Bruce DeCell confronted Sen. John McCain author of a provision in the Senate bill that invites states to continue licensing illegals and the unknown terrorists among them.

In the House Senate Conference Committee, although Reps. Sensenbrenner made many attempts to compromise by permitting removal of more and more of the border security measures from the bill, Senators Collins and Lieberman, slaves of the open borders lobby, refused to compromise in any way.

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 maneuver was successful and the Open Borders Act was stopped.

On November 30 we held a highly successful Capitol Hill press conference, with 60 members of the press attentive to our statements and still asking questions over an hour later.

It appeared by this time that the Collins, Lieberman, McCain bill and the attempt to deceive Americans, was dead. Several members of Congress credited us with this success.

However, in a well orchestrated public relations campaign effort to Senators Collins, Lieberman, McCain, Pat Roberts (R-Kansas), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif), Rep Jane Harman (D-Calif), and others falsely stated that Reps Sensenbrenner and other supporters were only concerned about losing control of the intelligence oversight power. When Pres Bush and members of the Cabinet came out forcefully for the Senate's intelligence only reform, the tide shifted against us and the bill came back from the dead and was passed and signed by the President on December 8.

## THE SITUATION TODAY

**The December Defeat of Border Security Measures in Congress is Merely a Delay. We believe that the movement toward a major tightening of our borders is now unstoppable. As proof we list the astonishing progress our side made between June and December**

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."

**In June of 2004 if 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.**

**REP. SENSENBRENNER IS ABOUT TO INTRODUCED A NEW  
VERSION OF H.R.10**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.  
OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER, WHICH WILL BE SENT SHORTLY  
WILL DESCRIBE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PASS IT.**