

9/11 Families for a Secure America
The families of the victims of September 11, 2001

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NEWSLETTER JUNE 14, 2005

9/11 FSA Members and Friends

You have not received a newsletter from 9/11 FSA since mid-April when we sent three in quick succession in mid-April. This has been due to our involvement in so many secure borders events that we've been unable to write our reports.

There have been significant, favorable developments since in the last two months.

Federal REAL ID ACT SIGNED INTO LAW May 11, 2005

9/11 FSA PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN PASSAGE

9/11 FSA ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF REAL ID

Rep. Sensenbrenner's Real ID Act was passed by the Congress and on May 11 was signed by the President.

From July 2004 until passage this May, members of 9/11 Families for a Secure America intensely lobbied Congress for passage of these provisions. Also, were highly visible on radio and television speaking in support of it and other border security measures.

Many in Washington recognize that the work of 9/11 FSA members was critical to passage of the Real ID Act.

In the summer and fall of 2004 9/11 FSA members aggressively supported inclusion of these provisions (which had been part of the 9/11 Commission Report) in the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act. We were opposed by much of the Washington establishment, including President Bush and Senators such as Lieberman, Collins and McCain, who, responding to the demands of the open borders lobby would not tolerate any restrictions on illegal immigration or illegal aliens.

In 2004 even the former 9/11 Commissioners opposed inclusion of border and ID security in the bill though their own official 9/11 Report had stressed the major role that open borders and drivers licenses had played in allowing the 911 terrorists to carry out their mass murder. (After termination of the Commission's official status in July 2004 the former 9/11 Commissioners accepted major funding from the Ford Foundation to found a private group they called the 9/11 Public Discourse Project. The Ford Foundation is the largest single supporter of open borders groups in the US. Once the Commissioners accepted Ford funding they proceeded to distance themselves from the border security recommendations of their own 9/11 Report, and opposed a bill that would have included these measures. 9/11 FSA members did their best to shame the Commissioners by pointing out their link to the Ford Foundation and the role this funding may have played in their abandoning their own Report).

Although McCain, Collins and Lieberman et al. successfully removed border security from the "9/11 bill" passed last December, 9/11 FSA vocally supported House members who promised to reintroduce the border and ID security provisions in 2005.

Rep. Sensenbrenner (Wis), as he had promised, introduced Real ID this year. 9/11 FSA members were again in the forefront of supporters. Our members made numerous lobbying trips to DC to lobby the Senate. We presented a letter signed by over 600 family members of 9/11 victims in support of Real ID.

Our efforts in the Senate were utterly wasted. It is clear that if 9/11 family members are to affect the votes of those Senators who are committed puppets of the open borders lobby we will have to go their home states and speak to their voters.

The following Senators were most prominent in the effort to kill Real ID: Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn), Sam Brownback (R-Kans), Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Richard Durbin (D-Ill), Diane Feinstein (D-Calif), Chuck Hagel (R-Neb), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt), Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn), Richard Lugar (R-Ind), John McCain (R-Ariz), Ken Salazar (D-Colo), John Sununu (R-NH).

Throughout the months prior to passage of Real ID our members appeared on radio and television across the country, including Fox News and Lou Dobbs.

We gave numerous interviews to and were quoted in numerous newspapers, and AP, UPI and other wire services brought our message to more outlets.

We participated in the Keep Their Feet to the Fire event, co-sponsored by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and talk show host Roger Hedgecock of KOGO radio, San Diego.

At this event eighteen radio talk show hosts from across the country coordinated their efforts, came to D.C. and broadcast for three days from adjoining rooms in support of border security. Broadcasting from early morning Eastern Time to late evening Pacific Time the hosts provided significant support for Real ID. Our members gave over two dozen interviews during the three day event.

Particularly effective was Joan Molinaro, mother of WTC victim Firefighter Carl Molinaro. Joan told of her meeting with Sen. Wyden of Oregon, during which he had told her that despite her loss he could not support restrictions on illegal immigration because strawberry growing was so important to his state's agribusiness. He invited her to come see the strawberry fields. She invited him to see the grave of her son.

Lars Larson and other hosts enabled Joan to make sure that people across the country, particularly in Wyden's state of Oregon, heard her story.

PASSAGE OF REAL ID: WHAT IT INDICATES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SECURE BORDERS MOVEMENT.

Passage of Real ID was a highly significant defeat for the Open Borders Lobby. Over 600 organizations which are part of that Lobby (with a huge budget supplied in part by the Ford Foundation) intensely lobbied Congress to defeat Real ID.

The fact that the House of Representatives stood firmly in support of Real ID and then forced the Senate to pass it shows that the tide in America has changed in our favor.

It would have been inconceivable just a year ago for this bill to pass, but the American people have recognized, in a way that many politicians have not, that the unrestricted flow of unknown, lawbreaking illegal aliens and the terrorists among them poses a severe threat to our security.

Many of you are discouraged by the day to day insults to our laws that illegal immigration presents. HAVE FAITH, Real ID passage is proof we are winning.

However, the battle is far from over. This will be the subject of our next newsletter.

OTHER 9/11 FSA WORK

In March we held a forum for 9/11 family members and friends at the Marriott Financial Center near Ground Zero. Speaking were: NY State Motor Vehicle Commissioner Ray Martinez; retired INS Agent Mike Cutler and Rosemary Jenks of Numbers USA.

In May Peter Gadiel spoke at a forum for immigration reform volunteers in Nashville sponsored by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR)

In June, Joan Molinaro, Mike Cutler and Peter Gadiel all spoke at a Las Vegas meeting of immigration reform leaders and volunteers.

These events will be covered in more detail in a future newsletter.