

## Report on 9/11 FSA Lobbying Trip to Washington February 27–March 3, 2006

**MET WITH TWO SENATORS. MET WITH STAFF MEMBERS OF THIRTEEN OTHERS.  
INCLUDING SENIOR STAFF PERSON FOR MAJORITY LEADER FRIST, AND GEORGE FISHMAN AND  
ART ARTHUR OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY STAFF**

**JOHN McCAIN SCREAMED AT 9/11 FSA MEMBERS FOR OPPOSING HIS BILL TO GIVE  
AMNESTY FOR ILLEGALS McCAIN CHALLENGES PETER GADIEL TO DEBATE HIM IN ARIZONA.  
GADIEL ACCEPTS CHALLENGE**

**MET WITH NEIL M. GORSUCH, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

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9/11 FSA members Joan Molinaro, Bruce DeCell, Grace Godshalk, Kirstin Gadiel and Peter Gadiel lobbied the Senate during the week of February 27 to March 3. Part of the time we were accompanied by Bill Buchanan, Bob Shoemaker, Helen Kirkpatrick, Marietta Pfalsgraf and Rick Rio of the Virginia immigration reform group, ANCIR. Our purpose was to oppose bills that would reward illegal aliens by granting them amnesty and the right to become citizens of the United States. Rikki Horton of the FAIR staff accompanied us to several appointments.

The worst amnesty bills are S. 1033 sponsored by Sens. McCain and Kennedy, and the as yet unnumbered bill sponsored by Sen. Arlen Specter.

Tuesday morning we met first with George Fishman and Art Arthur of the House Judiciary staff to get their perspective on HR 4437 passage. Part of our team also met with an aide to Representative Gingrey of Georgia to discuss possibility of adding termination of the visa waiver program as immigration legislation passes through Senate and conference committee.

### **Personal meetings with senators:**

On Thursday evening we had an appointment with **Sen. Charles Schumer of New York** which had resulted from Bruce and Peter and their families appearing with him at NYC press conference denouncing President Bush's plan to sell control of port operations to Dubai corporation. Schumer expressed strong disapproval of both the McKennedy and Specter versions of amnesty/ "guest worker." He said only way to end the problem is with a national ID card. Our response was that mere suggestion of any ID as a "national ID" doomed his proposal to failure. He description of what he called "national ID" really sounded like a hardened, secure Social Security card, and we suggested that such a proposal would, if it did not require volumes of personal information might be capable of being passed, and we'd support it. There is no telling whether he proposes national ID card in order to create a red herring that can't possibly pass, or whether he really is amenable to simply creating a secure Social Security card. He refused to commit on any position. We strongly stated our opposition to and the dangers of amnesty granted to millions of illegals whose true identities are unknown. Stressed that one of the 1993 WTC bombers had received amnesty in '86 as did the CIA killer and other criminals.

We also encountered **Sen. John Thune of South Dakota**. It was not a lengthy meeting, but we did introduce ourselves and describe our position. He is very firmly opposed to rewarding illegal behavior with any form of amnesty. Appears to be solidly on our side.

We met with staff members of the following senators

### **Meetings with aides to senators**

#### **Tuesday:**

In addition to early meetings with staffers on the House side, on the senate side:

Jonathan Coppess, Legislative Assistant to **Sen. Ben Nelson (Neb)** It appears Nelson is relatively strong on our side.

Cynthia Vukmer, Legis. Asst to **Sen. Inhofe (Okla)**. Strongly on our side.

Matt Blackburn, Legis. Asst to **Sen. Tom Coburn (Okla)**. This was just a brief meeting as we had appointment for Wed.

Courtney Anderson, Legis Ass't to Sen. **Jim DeMint of S.C.** She was actually rude, demanding: "what are we going to do with those already here, and what about the impact on our economy."

Brianne Jablon, **L.A. to Mel Martinez of Fla.** He is committed to the McKennedy amnesty.

#### **Wednesday meetings with aides:**

Elizabeth Floyd aide to **Sen. Tom Coburn (Okla.)**. Senator is strongly on our side. This reaffirms his very strong support expressed in previous meetings.

Rohit Kumar, Director of Policy and Senior Counsel, **Senate Majority Leader Frist**. Generally quite favorable, but we prefer not to put details in email.

Ben Franklin, Legis. Asst to **Sen. Mike De Wine**. Shortly after our meeting we learned that DeWine announced he favors the McKennedy amnesty. We expect to return to this office to use the stronger tone that we adopted as we listened to more evasive drivel.

Brent Furer, Legis Asst to **Sen. David Vitter (La.)** "Not only is Sen. Vitter on your side, he is ferociously on your side. Opposes any form of amnesty.

Also on Wednesday, Kirstin Gadiel attended the hearings on border violence that were presided over by Sen Cornyn. We will have summary available soon.

#### **Thursday Senate markup session**

We managed to attend part of the markup session on the McKennedy and Specter proposals. During this meeting Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) utterly disgraced himself, showing contempt for all those who have been killed or injured by illegal aliens. Graham said he plays golf, that most of the courses he plays on use illegal alien labor, and that he, like many other Americans is happy to benefit from that cheap labor. Joan, Bruce and I were appalled that a United States Senator would admit that he thinks lower greens fees are more important than the lives of those he claims to represent. Perhaps significantly, Specter stated that his proposal ("the Chairman's mark") is just a proposal that can be radically changed or even rejected. It appears that this statement reveals a great lack of confidence by the Chairman that his bill has even the slightest chance of passage.

The appalling remark of Lindsey Graham infuriated us. The 9/11 FSA board had agreed that our message to the Senators would be as follows: if an amnesty passes, among the 11,000,000 to 20,000,000 recipients of amnesty there will inevitably be violent felons and terrorists. (For example, one of the participants in the 1993 WTC bombing had received amnesty in 1986. Other recipients of the '86 amnesty have been involved in crimes such as the killings outside CIA headquarters.) We had agreed that we would tell supporters of amnesty that if an amnesty bill is passed, when violent criminal or terrorist acts are committed by those receiving amnesty, 9/11 FSA will make sure that the people in the various states know which of their elected officials made those crimes possible by allowing the perpetrators to stay in the USA.

Prior to Thursday we had conveyed that message to Sen. DeWine's and Martinez staff people, but in rather indirect terms. During the markup, Sen. Feingold issued a press release stating his endorsement of the McKennedy amnesty bill. We decided that we would issue our promise in stronger terms.

#### **Meetings on Thursday:**

Emily Plagman, "Legislative Correspondent," **Russ Feingold of Wis.** This was a one way conversation. With Feingold having announced support of McKennedy, we told his aide 9/11 families and other victims of illegal alien crime WOULD be in Wisconsin if amnesty was passed to tell the people of that state that such crimes were directly attributable to Feingold's vote. She was not especially pleased. Gadiel noted that he had been in Wisconsin the week previous to lobby for a bill to ban licenses for illegals, and that this had passed 26 to 7 with an attempt to create driving certificates defeated 18 to 15.

Nate Jones, Counsel to **Herb Kohl of Wis.** Kohl has not revealed his position. In his case we described our promise made to Feingold's aide. And discussed the previous week's events in the Wisconsin state legislature.

Suzanne Singleterry, aide to **Gordon Allard of Colo.** "Senator opposes amnesty."

\_\_\_\_\_Swanson, aide to **Sen. Dick Durbin**. Expressed our position. Durbin known to support amnesty, but we had no clue from our meeting of any opinion.

Ben Billings, L.A. to **Sen. Landrieu of La.** Hard to read. Seemed to indicate his boss is on our side. Not fully informed of the technical details of the various bills. That's not surprising since Specter's is three hundred pages. Is interested in talking to 9/11 FSA Board of Adviser member Mike Cutler who worked for INS for thirty years. Billings indicated he'd like insight into the way that language in a bill would affect administration of the law in real life.

### **Friday meetings**

We left a very strong message of disapproval with the staff of **Sen. Lindsay Graham**, golf fanatic and devotee of cheap greens fees. We noted that a dozen members of MS 13 had been arrested that week in Orangeburg, S.C. and that the people of that state might be very eager to hear from us about the high value that Graham place on cheap golf and his lack of concern for Americans' safety.

After the previous day's markup session, Peter Gadiel had contacted Stephen Dinan of the Washington Times to express his opinion of Graham. Friday morning's Times had a large article on the markup on page A 3 above the fold, with a nice quote from Gadiel. This may reinforce our message to Graham.

We also encountered Christopher Jaarda of **Sen. Ensign** of Nevada's staff. Chris recognized us from previous meetings and we had an excellent hallway meeting. Sen. Ensign is firmly on our side.

As we left the Russell Senate Office Building whom should we meet but **John McCain**. Joan, Bruce and I approached him and identified ourselves as 9/11 family members. We told him we opposed his amnesty bill and of our promise to hold members of Congress who vote for it responsible for the acts of violence that result. The following conversation ensued:

McCain looked at Joan and said: ***"You're kidding, aren't you?"***

Molinaro: ***"No, we're not kidding."***

At this, McCain started screaming and pointed his finger in our faces: ***"After all I've done for you people! I welcome you to come to my state. I'll debate the issue with you. The people of Arizona trust me...I got 77% of the vote last year. Who do you think they'll believe?"***

Gadiel: ***"Yeah sure. You won that race by getting 85 % of your money from out of state."***

McCain: ***"It's people like you who make my job so hard. Come and debate me. I got 77% of the vote...."***

Gadiel: ***"Oh sure, but you needed 85% of your money from outside the state."***

By this time, Joan and Peter were turning their backs to McCain, and he started to come after them. However, a guard from the Russell Building came out, took McCain by the arm and pulled him inside the building.

9/11 FSA accepts Senator McCain's challenge to debate him on the issue of illegal immigration.

### **Meeting with Neil M.Gorsuch, Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General, and Crystal R. Jezierski, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison.**

Since the 9/11 attacks, 9/11 FSA has several times asked for meetings with representatives of the Bush Administration. These requests were ignored. Then, in December we were called by a Bush official who asked us to meet with her and did so in January. This was very useful and we were invited to a second meeting, this time with a person holding a senior position in the Administration. This occurred immediately after our outdoor visit with Sen. McCain, and was much friendlier.

We have no delusions that 9/11 FSA is a Washington powerhouse, but we think that we have achieved a degree of influence. The explosive response of McCain and the sudden interest on the part of Administration officials may be indications of that.

We intend to make clear to other supporters of McKennedy or Specter, that a vote for amnesty will have serious consequences should beneficiaries of amnesty commit any acts of violence. 9/11 FSA is reaching out to other victims of illegal alien violence in order to extend its reach and strength.

We expect that the support shown 9/11 FSA by FAIR, the Swensrud Foundation, Henry Buhl and others will bring satisfactory results.

In addition to the meetings with senators and aides, we made at least one visit each to the offices of sixteen other senators in our attempts to meet with a staffer. We failed in all these, but did get the name of the person in teh office who handles the subject, left materials and business cards. Will return to as many as possible during next trip.

Regards,  
Bruce DeCell  
Joan Molinaro  
Peter Gadiel