



The families of the victims of September 11, 2001
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Friends,

The New York City Council is currently considering a resolution expressing its opposition to HR 4437 Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. (This is the bill that is being sponsored by Rep. James Sensenbrenner.) HR 4437 is the only bill currently before the Congress that will put an end to illegal immigration and free access to the United States by terrorists.

The enormous power of the illegal alien lobby means that this insane Council Resolution in support of amnesty for millions of illegal aliens is going to pass. Nevertheless, yesterday, 9/11 FSA Board Member, Bruce DeCell, and 9/11 Board of Advisor member Mike Cutler testified at the City Council's hearing against the resolution and in support of HR 4437.

Following is Bruce's statement to the City Council:

Mr. Chairman, members of the New York City Council, speakers and guests, I want to thank you for allowing me to address you this afternoon about the Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005.

My name is Bruce De Cell and I am here representing 9/11 Families for a Secure America. 9/11FSA is an organization made up of family members of 9/11 civilians and first responders murdered on September 11, 2001. We came together as an organization some four years ago to advocate for reforms directly related to the failures of our government to protect our loved ones and all United States Citizens from the horrific attacks that occurred on September 11th.

Let me take a minute to tell you the story of my family's personal loss experienced on September 11th. My son in-law Mark Petrocelli who married my daughter Nicole two years and nine months before 9/11 was murdered on September 11th 2001. Mark was to me the son I never had; he was two days shy of his 29th birthday. Mark was a kind loving husband, a warm and funny young man who was the life of the party and the apple of his mom and dad's eye. My daughter Nicole loved him with all her heart, their whole lives laid ahead of them. I could go on and on about how wonderful Mark was to all who knew him; our family will never forget him and will always be diminished as a result of his murder. We will miss him always.

In our search for answers we began to do research into the murderous attacks that took Mark and so many Americans from us. We were horrified to discover the many failures of our elected

officials to carry out and enforce the immigration laws that were already on the books. This lack of enforcement was accomplished by under funding the manpower requirements needed in numerous aspects of investigative and administrative duties at the immigration service placing undue burden on investigators who were responsible to produce *numbers* of completed cases placing little or no value on accuracy. Fulfilling the stated missions of these laws and regulations to ensure our safety and security was not then and is not now the priority. Today over 4 years after 9/11 this is a major reason for the dysfunction of our immigration system.

Elected officials in this Country from city councils to the President of the United States have failed to uphold their oath of office to ensure the safety of its citizens above their desire to gain monetary support for their re-election campaigns by special interest groups, and in this case, specifically the illegal immigration lobby. This is a reality of how politicians are funded. We have come to learn that most of our elected officials are the best that money can buy.

Prior to September 11th, security was always put on the back burner to corporate special interests on the right and radical left wing supporters of open borders who view illegal aliens as a possible voting block in their favor. The average citizen has been unaware of this unholy alliance working against naturalized citizens and legal immigrants in this country. This negligence in our immigration enforcement played a big role in the events of September 11th and after that day the American public for the most part woke up and now see that for decades our elected officials in their lust for votes and cheap labor in this global economic environment have put our nation's security behind their agenda for money and power. This must change. Perhaps it will change because the majority of elected officials will develop a conscience and enact common sense legislation to protect the citizens who they purport to serve. Or maybe ordinary citizens who need to protect their families will exercise their right to vote out these unscrupulous officials.

On December 21, 2005 this City Council passed a resolution. Number 1009 which expressed opposition to the Real ID Act of 2005, this action put the safety and security of citizens of New York City and the nation in jeopardy. The City Council then put the welfare of illegal aliens before the citizen who elected them. The language the council used in resolution 1009 was incorrect. The Real ID Act of 2005 would not deny legal immigrants the privilege to obtain a drivers license because legal immigrants can obtain a social security number or other documents necessary to fulfill the requirements under the Real ID, but it would deny illegal aliens and the terrorists among them from getting state issued ID. Lest we forget that is how the 9/11 terrorist gained access to the planes they hijacked killing the flight crews and then flying into the W.T.C., Pentagon and a field in Pa. killing nearly 3000 innocent people.

I hope the City Council has come to know the difference between legal immigrants and illegal aliens and the terrorists among them and does not make the same mistake twice. 9/11 FSA demand that you **not** support any amnesty for illegal aliens. We demand in the strongest terms that you support the Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. We must control our borders and enforce our internal immigration laws before there can be any integrity to our immigration system.

A Washington Times article on 6/6/06 by Stephen Dinan cited a GAO report of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, the agency that would be responsible for administering an amnesty. It stated our immigration system cannot function adequately. There are huge backlogs in all areas of the immigration system and fraud and corruption is rampant. Our immigration system today is less able to handle the volumes of illegal immigrants coming into our country than they were in 1986. We must look at the mistakes we made then and learn from them or we are destined to repeat history. Can this city afford another terrorist attack? By supporting any legislation that grants amnesty to the many millions of illegal aliens present in our city and nation you will be doing just that, facilitating future terrorist attacks. By definition an illegal alien is someone who's true identity is unknown.

The added pressure the immigration system received in 1986 when then president Regan instituted our nations "one time amnesty" of approximately 1 and half million eligible illegal aliens turned out to be more than 3 million due to massive fraud. One of the first World Trade Center bombing participants was a middle easterner who was driving a New York City taxi cab and was given amnesty as an agricultural worker; another WTC bombing participant applied for amnesty and was denied but never removed from our country. Another lucky amnesty recipient was a terrorist who killed American citizens sitting in their cars outside of C.I.A .headquarters in Virginia.

Many violent people like this were given amnesty and the right to stay in our country in 1986 because our government did not have the political will to stand up for the security of American citizens. Unbelievably we have less political will today due to the increasing and unending appetite for cheap labor.

In our post 9/11 world there is no room in our nation for people who can not be properly identified, who can be the judge of what a terrorist or felon looks like from a person who just wants to work or go to school or kill Americans. It is past time that our government put our citizens' safety and security before votes, money, or political pandering.