



The families and victims of the September 11, 2001
terror attacks and other violent crimes committed by illegal aliens
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9/11 FSA PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN CAUSING THE PUBLIC OUTCRY WHICH FORCED N.Y. Gov. SPITZER TO ABANDON SCHEME TO LICENSE ILLEGAL ALIENS AND TERRORISTS

**ILLEGAL ALIEN LOBBY SUFFERS MAJOR DISASTER;
OREGON GOV. SAYS HE WILL BAN LICENSES FOR ILLEGALS**

On November 14, Gov. Eliot Spitzer raised the white flag on his plan to give New York drivers licenses to illegal aliens and unknown terrorists and violent felons among them. 9/11 Families for a Secure America can take an important share of the credit for forcing the governor to place the nation's security needs over the demands of his supporters in the illegal alien lobby.

For years, the open borders/illegal alien lobby has very lied about the motives of secure border advocates. That lobby has used words like "racist," "xenophobe," "nativist," etc. in an often successful effort frighten people into remaining silent about their opposition to illegal immigration. The testimony of victims of illegal aliens, organized in most cases by 9/11 FSA, has been the critical factor in many successful battles fight to secure our borders, especially in the matter of giving drivers licenses to illegals. The role of open borders victims, organized by 9/11 FSA was thus a major reason Gov. Spitzer failed. Following is a review of 9/11 FSA's role in stopping Spitzer.

Beginning in January of this year, 9/11 FSA members appeared at a press conference with State Sen. Marty Golden on the steps of NY City Hall to announce opposition to the scheme which Spitzer had promised as part of his gubernatorial campaign. With victims of open borders providing clear justification for denying licenses to illegals, many other legislators who previously feared the open borders lobby's viciously false charge of "racism," found the courage to oppose the governor's scheme. Then, in early September, when Spitzer announced his decision to actually implement his scheme, 9/11 FSA responded promptly and with gloves off and politicians of both parties rallied in opposition to the governor.

As a result our message was delivered directly to the Governor, as reported in the NY Times on September 22: *Peter Gadiel, the president of 9/11 Families for a Secure America, whose son died in the World Trade Center, released a scathing statement even before the official announcement yesterday. "Governor Spitzer will demonstrate abject stupidity and breathtaking disregard for the victims of 9/11 if he hands these powerful ID's to people who sneak across our borders," he wrote. "Terrorists here illegally used licenses to kill my son and thousands of others in the World Trade Center; if they do it again using New York licenses issued by this governor, the blood of the victims will be on Mr. Spitzer's hands."* When that statement was read aloud by a reporter to Mr. Spitzer, he seemed taken aback, then called the words inflammatory and "way beyond" the bounds of appropriate discourse. He added that "people who ignore the reality of illegal immigrants only encourage the use of false Social Security numbers and driver's licenses."

On the same day, the Washington Times carried our message to Congress, quoting our official statement that "Obviously one 9/11 isn't enough for Spitzer. People are going to die." 9/11 FSA's rapid and no nonsense criticism set the tone for the strong bi-partisan attacks which hit the governor.

On October 3, 911 FSA board members Joan Molinaro, Bruce DeCell, Peter Gadiel and 911 FSA advisor Mike Cutler testified at a hearing held by members of the State Assembly, and again at a Senate hearing on October 15. Our members and advisors were guests on the Neil Cavuto and Bill O'Reilly programs on Fox News channel, and William F. Buckley referred to our efforts in the National Review.

We also were able to ratchet up the bad publicity for Hillary Clinton's failure to make a clear statement when, on October 30, we offered a \$1000.00 reward for anyone who get an unambiguous response from her on whether she opposed licensing illegals or favored the idea. That helped to increase her embarrassment over the issue and maintained press interest in our opposition to the Spitzer scheme. The Associated Press and the Gannett newspaper chain gave nationwide coverage to our offer, and the NY Post gave us several mentions in their news columns and their editorials.

Soon after, Governor Spitzer retreated and said he would give illegals drivers licenses that looked different from those given to law abiding people, but soon the public saw that as a meaningless gesture. As a result, Spitzer was forced to completely give up on the idea of providing any form of license to illegals.

This was a terrifically important victory over the illegal alien lobby and our opponents recognized it as such. For example the day after Spitzer's announcement Putnam (NY) Journal-News quoted Robin Bikkal, a lawyer for illegal aliens and chair of the Westchester County Hispanic Advisory Board: "It's very painful. It's a disaster." Bikkal continued: "The thing is, I think we could have been leaders in this whole process. Now I think everybody's going to be just dug into their positions."

What Bikkal was admitting was that had Spitzer succeeded in implementing his scheme, other states would have followed his lead; instead the movement to expand the licensing of illegals to other states is all but dead.

The influence of our New York victory was visible immediately in Oregon, one of the few states that still licenses illegals. On November 16, one day after Spitzer's surrender the Portland Oregonian reported that Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski "*plans to issue an executive order today that he says would 'dramatically tighten' restrictions on Oregon driver's licenses and make it far more difficult for illegal immigrants to get one. Under Kulongoski's order...licenses would be issued only to those who have valid Social Security numbers or who can prove they're in the country legally. Driver and Motor Vehicle Services officials would be required to verify the Social Security numbers, which currently is done only for commercial drivers. 'There is an increasing concern, based on ongoing investigations, that Oregon is becoming a safe haven' for unlawfully obtaining identification, said Kulongoski's spokeswoman Patty Wentz. 'We need to quickly change the requirements to more closely match other states.'*" This was a complete reversal of Gov. Kulongoski's stated position of only the day earlier, when through the very same Patty Wentz, he had reaffirmed his commitment to continuing the policy of licensing illegals and terrorists.

It's crystal clear that Oregon's governor decided to avoid the intense criticism that Spitzer had to endure before he decided to act responsibly. Recall too, that earlier this year both Tennessee and North Carolina ended the practice of licensing illegals, and a bill to give "driving certificates" to illegals has, so far, been stopped in the Illinois legislature and we see that the ability of terrorists and violent felons to obtain official US-issued I.D. is shrinking. In addition, the Bush-Kennedy Comprehensive Amnesty bill and the so-called "Dream Act" to amnesty millions of illegals and give them in-state college tuition rates also failed.

In celebrating this victory over the illegal alien lobby in New York State, we at 9/11 FSA must recognize the important roles played by William F. O'Reilly of O'Reilly Strategic Communications and Jim Staudenraus, long time Friend of 9/11 FSA. Jim had enlisted Judicial Watch to commence on his behalf a taxpayer suit against Gov. Spitzer. There can be no doubt that the Governor, aware that his actions were contrary to law, recognized that Jim's suit had a strong legal basis and that this played a role in his decision.

