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9/11 Families Say Lieberman Is the 'Obstructionist'

(CNSNews.com) - A group representing more than 300 families who lost loved ones in the 9/11 terror attacks says Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) is the "true obstructionist" blocking passage of an intelligence overhaul bill.

The group "911 Families for a Secure America" held a Capitol Hill press conference Tuesday -- "to set the record straight," they said.

They said Sen. Lieberman's insistence that no "immigration safeguards" be included in the final bill is blocking its passage.

But Democrats and other supporters of the intelligence bill say two House Republicans are the ones obstructing passage of the bill.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said he blocked the final bill from a House vote because it does not address ways to prevent illegal aliens from getting valid drivers' licenses.

And Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, believes the new intelligence bureaucracy would interfere with military command and control.

Some Democrats and members of the 9/11 panel say stricter controls on drivers' licenses should be the topic of separate legislation.

But some 911 families and others believe it's better to wait for a good bill rather than rush passage of one that doesn't do the job.

On Tuesday, 911 Families for a Secure America said it was launching a national ad campaign singling out Sen. Lieberman as one who "opposes fixing drivers license loopholes and inconveniencing illegal aliens, even though it could cost American lives."

The spot concludes with Peter Gadiel, president of 911 Families for a Secure America, asking listeners to press lawmakers to support a bill - but only if it includes immigration safeguards, "so more Americans don't end up like my son, Jamie."

The ad campaign is running in major media markets throughout the country for an undisclosed period.

"The 19 terrorists used more than 60 driver's licenses to operate within this country, board those planes and eventually kill 3,000 people, including my son," Gadiel said. He said Lieberman, one of the Conference Committee negotiators, is "simply making no sense and is obviously letting special interests do his thinking instead of doing what's right for the American people."

President Bush on a visit to Canada on Tuesday said he wants to sign an intelligence reform bill: "I believe the bill is necessary and important and hope we can get it done next week."

President Bush said he would urge congressional leaders to schedule a vote next week on the compromise bill that is being stalled by objections from Sensenbrenner and Hunter.

