



The families of the victims of September 11, 2001
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Stephen M. Saland
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Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Senator Saland,

I have reviewed the letter sent you by Carl Tubbesing of the National Conference of State Legislatures in which he attempts to describe as unbiased the materials on illegal immigration that appear on the NCSL website. His attempt fails.

Mr. Tubbesing claims that NCSL included on its list of immigration bills only those that "had bi-partisan co-sponsors, a large number of co-sponsors, had relevant committee or sub-committee chairs as sponsors or were given some chance of passage in the press." As a result, NCSL chose to include on its list: S2381, a bill to grant amnesty to illegals that had a total of two co-sponsors, both Democrats; HR 4262, an amnesty bill with 48 co-sponsors, all Democrats; HR 440, an amnesty bill with 21 co-sponsors, all Democrats; S 1387, another amnesty proposal with only 1 main sponsor and no co-sponsors.

Yet, among the bills NCSL chose not to include in its list were HR 687, a bill to deny federal acceptance of the notoriously unreliable matricula cards issued to illegal aliens in the US by the Mexican government, with 133 co-sponsors from both parties; HR 2671, a bill to help state and local police participate in arresting illegal aliens, with 125 co-sponsors from both parties.

Mr. Tubbesing attempts to justify his list first by claiming "our focus was purely on immigration reform proposals and was not meant to examine legislation that addresses security and terrorism issues..." He then contradicts himself saying "NCSL does not take a position on immigration policy..." He goes in the exact opposite direction saying "NCSL has official policy positions on some aspects of immigration, drivers' licenses and homeland security." He then completely contradicts himself by claiming NCSL focuses only "on how states are affected once immigrants are in the US in terms of public health, social services,..."

The list of bills NCSL chose to ignore, including HR 687 and 2671, are very definitely "immigration reform proposals" that "affect the states."

The only difference between bills NCSL publicizes and those it ignores is that the former would open America's borders to illegals (and the unknown terrorists among them), and the ones it ignores would make our borders more secure.

Mr. Tubbesing claims that NCSL is concerned about federalism, unfunded mandates and pre-emption. How then to explain NCSL's inclusion of so many bills to grant amnesty wherein no funds are allotted the states for the extra costs of education, welfare, housing, etc that such amnesties impose on the states, while at the same time ignoring a bill that would GRANT funds to States that VOLUNTARILY join in enforcing federal immigration law?

To this point in his letter Mr. Tubbesing's evasions are merely clumsy. When he mischaracterizes Mr. Sensenbrenner's driver's license proposals, mischaracterizes the provisions of the Intelligence Reform Bill, distorts the words of the 9/11 Commission, this is where his credibility collapses.

He claims that the Sensenbrenner proposal would "repeal the drivers' licenses (sic) provisions that were enacted into law as part of the 9/11 Commission reforms legislation, including the negotiated rulemaking process and instead impose a series of rigid, prescriptive federal mandates with limited state input and consultation."

This sentence is false in all respects: 1. the 9/11 Commission merely described the dangers of licenses in the hands of terrorists but made NO specific proposals; 2. the Sensenbrenner bill imposes NO mandates on the States; 3. the Sensenbrenner bill merely bars the Federal government from accepting AT ITS OWN FACILITIES licenses from those states which choose to continue issuing licenses to those people who do not show they are legally in the U.S. 4) there are no rigid mandates, merely prescribed minimums.

Since nearly 40 states deny licenses to illegals, Mr. Tubbesing and the NCSL have chosen to side with the minority of States that undermine federal law and weaken America's defenses against terrorism by issuing licenses to illegals and the unknown terrorists among them.

Mr. Tubbesing is at his most offensive when talking of the 9/11 families and their support for denying official US-issued I.D. to illegal aliens and the unknown terrorists among them.

Although he acknowledges that 9/11 Families for a Secure America supports the Sensenbrenner bill he has the effrontery to claim "other 9/11 family organizations [sic] oppose it, largely because of a provision that would prohibit states from issuing license to illegal aliens."

The facts: during House-Senate conference discussions on the Intelligence Reform bill, there was only one group (consisting of only twelve people) who opposed the Sensenbrenner version. IN PUBLIC they stated that they SUPPORTED the Sensenbrenner license provisions, but because they feared that inclusion of the Sensenbrenner provisions might cause the Senate to kill any and all intelligence reforms they did not want these provisions included in the Intelligence bill, but wanted them voted on separately.

Tubbesing takes that one group of twelve individuals and fabricates it into "other 9/11 family organizations" (plural and unnamed) favoring licenses for illegal aliens.

(As a result of that group's opposition to inclusion of the license provisions, their credibility with the 9/11 families was shattered, and they dissolved at the beginning of this year. Finally, while that group spoke for only its twelve members, 9/11 FSA has over 400 family members.)

Since Tubbesing's claim that unnamed 9/11 families groups oppose the Sensenbrenner's bill "because it would prohibit issuing licenses to illegals" is a fabrication it seems possible that this notion springs entirely from his own mind and therefore reveals his opinion on the matter.

Tubbesing's letter is a transparent and failed attempt to justify the NCSL staff's slanted discussion of illegal immigration. His failure is so complete that he exposes the staff's bias and thus admits his awareness that NCSL staff's position papers are instruments of propaganda and not of information.

I eagerly await Mr. Tubbesing revealing the names the 911 family organizations which want illegals and the terrorists among them to obtain the same documents Mohammed Atta and the other mass murderers used to get on those airplanes that morning.

Until then I remain

Very truly yours,

Peter Gadiel
Father of James, age 23, WTC North Tower, 103rd floor
President
9/11 Families for a Secure America