

## EMPLOYERS SUPPORT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

### **FIX IT NOW – CONGRESS MUST RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW**

- U.S. employers want to be on the right side of the law. It is our obligation as citizens and it makes good business sense.
- We understand the U.S. will not get control of its borders until it gets control in the workplace.
- But employers need the government's help. We need an accurate, reliable electronic system to verify that employees are who they say they are and are authorized to work.

### **CREATE AN EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION SYSTEM THAT WORKS**

- Employers want a timely, efficient, accurate electronic employment verification system phased in at a realistic pace.
- E-Verify has the makings of an effective system, but it needs work.
  - Congress must appropriate funding to improve the Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security databases responsible for E-Verify error rates.
  - The government must reduce delays and improve efficiency before making E-Verify mandatory. Most important, secondary screening procedures must be able to accommodate the vastly increased volume of cases that will be generated when all eight million U.S. employers are enrolled in the system.
  - Any new verification system must combat identity theft – either with a tamperproof work authorization card or some other means of reliably verifying employees' identities.

### **ENFORCE TOUGHER SANCTIONS AGAINST EGREGIOUS EMPLOYERS**

- No one has more of a stake than employers in a level playing field.
- Law-abiding business owners support more aggressive sanctions against businesses that deliberately flout the law and those that continue to use unauthorized workers once more realistic immigration quotas are in place.

### **FUND EFFECTIVE BORDER SECURITY**

- Fencing and other physical barriers are needed along some parts of the border but not coast to coast.
- DHS should continue to invest in new border technology, including a "virtual fence" of sensors and radio and camera towers.
- DHS should adequately fund the Border Patrol and expand the number of officers deployed.

## THE BEST ANTIDOTE TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS A WORKABLE LEGAL IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

- Enforcement alone has not and will not work to control the immigrant influx.
  - The federal government spent more than \$35 billion on border and immigration enforcement between 1990 and 2003.<sup>1</sup>
  - The U.S.'s undocumented population grew from 3.5 million<sup>2</sup> to 9.8 million during this period.<sup>3</sup>
- Employers need better, more realistic immigration law combined with effective enforcement.
  - The centerpiece of any immigration reform package must be realistic visa quotas that bring the supply of foreign workers into sync with U.S. labor needs.

We must create a way for the foreign workers we need to keep U.S. businesses open and growing to enter the country legally.

- Without adequate legal channels, foreign workers drawn to U.S. jobs will continue to enter the country illegally. And an immigration overhaul that fails to provide legal channels will only recreate the problem it seeks to solve: within a few years, Americans will find themselves grappling once again with a vast illegal foreign workforce.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Immigration Enforcement Spending Since IRCA," Migration Policy Institute, November 2005, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> "Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: 1990 to 2000," Office of Policy and Planning, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, "Trends In Unauthorized Immigration: Undocumented Inflow Now Trails Legal Inflow," Pew Hispanic Center, 10/2/08, p. ii.