

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION, Hearing on SB 833, April 11, 2013

Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Starr, Members of the Committee:

I am Elizabeth Van Staaveren, of McMinnville, Oregon. I oppose SB 833.

There is clear evidence that **states giving driver licenses to illegal aliens attract more illegal aliens**. This is an important reason not to pass SB 833.

From FAIR's Legislative Update, [April 8, 2013](#) [excerpts]:

New Mexico, who issues illegal alien driver's licenses, is also home to the nation's second highest percentage of uninsured drivers. ([Insurance Research Council](#), April 21, 2011).

During the ten weeks after Arizona's immigration enforcement bill, Senate Bill 1070, became law, the number of licenses issued to foreign nationals in the three states that currently grant driver's licenses to illegal aliens, Washington, New Mexico, and Utah, rose by 60 percent over the annual average for the previous year. ([Seattle Times](#), Aug. 13, 2010). In Washington State, the FBI was tipped that people from across the country were coming to the state because of its license law. *Id.* In New Mexico, between August 2010 and April 2011, investigators found that 37 percent of the 16,000 foreign national requests for driver's license appointments came from out-of-state, most from Arizona, Georgia, and Texas.

Conversely, states that refuse to grant benefits or privileges to illegal aliens see a dramatic decrease in illegal immigration. For example, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) estimated that Arizona's illegal alien population grew from 330,000 in 2000 to 560,000 by 2008, one of the fastest rates nationally. ([Office of Immigration Statistics](#), January 2008). After Arizona's SB 1070 passed, however, Arizona's illegal alien population dropped by 18 percent from 2008 to 2009. ([Office of Immigration Statistics](#), January 2009). After Prince William County, Virginia instituted a policy of cooperation with DHS, its illegal alien population decreased significantly in just two years, resulting in a reduction in violent crime. ([University of Virginia 2010 Final Report](#)).

Besides the inevitability of attracting larger numbers of illegal aliens, there are additional problems with SB 833.

Citizenship is meaningless if illegal immigrants are allowed to enter and remain in this country encouraged and unchallenged. SB 833 accommodates and legitimizes illegal aliens, thus tarnishing the value of U.S. citizenship and saying to the world: we don't care how many people

come to the U.S. and settle here. It's a matter of no concern or importance to us, and we will take no responsibility for what happens as a result.

It was very irresponsible of Gov. John Kitzhaber to yield to the pleas and demands of illegal alien advocates and actually sponsor a group of them to fashion SB 833 behind closed doors without allowing any input from citizens who represent the public interest. It was not only irresponsible but dangerous, because among the illegal aliens there are many who drink and drive recklessly and have killed or maimed innumerable innocent citizens in road crashes. Furthermore, the deadly drug trade flourishes in Oregon because illegal aliens are either directly involved themselves or can be forced by drug lords to aid them. Even more formidable are the international terrorists who take advantage of weak state driver license laws to embed themselves into a community and hide their massively crippling plans.

You must learn to say No to the demands of illegal aliens; otherwise the safety and sovereignty of this country will be lost.

Already wages are depressed because of the volume of illegal immigration. Our less-educated citizens have to compete for jobs against illegal aliens who will work for a pittance and not dare to protest working conditions to an employer. Citizens are losing out and many remain unemployed for long periods, a devastating situation for them, while they watch illegal aliens working at every construction site, in landscaping, agriculture, hotels, restaurants, and various other places.

Did you know that more than 100 million people worldwide dream of a life in the U.S., and [would come here if they could](#)? The U.S. is the no. 1 desired destination for potential migrants. Can we admit all of them? Of course not. How then is it decided who'll be the lucky ones? At present, the law of the jungle prevails. Those who are willing to fight their way into the country without reference to legality get to stay, plus those who come legally but don't go home when their visas expire. This situation puts the U.S. on a disastrous path to overpopulation and chaos. Extending driver licenses to illegal aliens will only expedite the disaster.

Think carefully, and don't do it! Instead, work to make E-Verify mandatory for all employers in Oregon. This will open up jobs for citizens, motivate illegal aliens to leave, and discourage others from attempting illegal entry. See the new report on E-Verify at <http://blog.uscis.gov/2013/03/e-verify-celebrates-2012.html>

Thank you.

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