



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

How do you go about fixing something if those in charge of correcting it really don't seem to care?

I ask this question because earlier this year, during Congressional debate about extending the payroll tax cuts, a number of legislators tried to correct an IRS loophole that most Americans would consider a major travesty but they were blocked from doing so.

The controversy focused on whether or not child tax credits (which average about \$1,800 a family) should go only to those who can prove they have Social Security numbers and are legal workers.

According to the U.S. Treasury Department, in the 2010 tax filing year these child credit refund checks totaled more than \$4 billion and 2.3 million recipients did not have Social Security numbers. The department noted that was a four-fold increase over five years earlier.

Now, you and I can look at a program like this and decide immediately that it is crazy to even debate whether or not we should continue writing such generous checks to people who are not legally in our country. That's not how Congress should operate. Despite an outcry from hard-working, legitimate taxpayers, the issue became highly divisive and a solution was never brought to an up-or-down vote. Our spineless legislative leaders once again found it easier to kick the can down the road.

What's unfortunate about this story is that it underscores just how hard it is for NPG and other groups to make progress in winning the war against out-

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EXPIRED VISAS AND IMMIGRATION

Did Up to 50% of America's Current Illegals Come Right Through Our Front Door?

If you owned a retail store and knew full well that 40% of the people you let in your store were stealing from you, what would you do?

The logical answer is to immediately and radically enact stronger security.

This question comes up because in a recent Congressional hearing Congresswoman Candice Miller (R, MI), Chairman of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee of the Homeland Security Committee, shed new light on how the U.S. government fails to track millions of foreign visitors who remain in the country far longer than they are allowed.

This has been a problem for years and it has been permitted to grow out of control in both the Bush and Obama administrations. In fact, in reporting on Congresswoman Miller's hearings, a *Denver Post* story from the *Associated Press* noted that: "The Obama administration doesn't consider deporting people whose only offense is overstaying a visa a priority. It has focused immigration enforcement efforts on people who have committed serious crimes or are considered a threat to public or national security."

Such laid-back enforcement has a price. In fact, only weeks before the hearing the FBI captured 29 year old Amine El Khalifi, who was carrying out a bomb plot against the U.S. Capitol wearing an explosive-laden suicide vest. He had been living illegally in the U.S. since 1999, when he arrived from Morocco on a short-term tourist visa.

During the hearing, Miller noted that El Khalifi "follows a long line of terrorists, including several of the 9/11 hijackers, who overstayed their visa and went on to conduct terrorist attacks." She continued: "We have to recognize that we do have this problem." The *AP* story noted that: "Visa overstays have long been a concern of lawmakers and law enforcement. Some estimates suggest that as many as half of the country's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants have overstayed visas."

As Congresswoman Miller says: "They came in right through the front door."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) makes clear that they have "combed through visa records to try to identify people who have overstayed their welcome and deport those considered threats to the community or national security." They acknowledge that this process would never have brought El Khalifi to their attention as he came to the U.S. years ago and was not on the radar.

Without question, our nation will continue to remain vulnerable to terrorism and make NO progress in getting control of our immigration system if we fail to follow through on visa overstays or initiate a process where we can immediately track down and deport offenders. Without serious reform of U.S. immigration policy, the U.S. population will continue to grow to even more unsustainable levels. To read more about this issue and the excuses the Department of Homeland Security is making as to why they aren't enforcing the laws against visa overstays, go to www.DenverPost.com.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (Continued from page 1)

of-control immigration – the driving force behind our future population growth.

Far too many of our elected leaders simply won't come to realistic terms with our nation's costly and destructive immigration policies. Just as they blatantly ignore the \$15.5 trillion debt and its looming impact on America's economy and future, they simply don't want to make the hard choices that might jeopardize their political careers.

That's why NPG must keep the pressure on! National polls have consistently shown that there is a definite disconnect between many of our elected leaders and the American people on immigration. America's citizens and hard-working tax payers don't want excuses when it comes to immigration – they want decisive action.

The people understand that in an age when both lone-wolf terrorists and groups such as al-Qaeda will do everything in their power to infiltrate our country, we must definitely keep the pressure on our elected leaders for more secure borders...They understand that at a time when both jobs and tax dollars are scarce, we cannot permit politicians to let political expediency triumph over enforcing our nation's immigration laws...And they understand that adjusting our policies and opening our nation's doors to countless millions more immigrants is a recipe for social, economic and environmental disaster.

NPG prides itself on being the premier population organization in the country. Our members are committed to winning the fight to leave a livable future to our children

and grandchildren. Indeed, as we move beyond our 40th Anniversary into the coming decades, it has never been more important for us to remain strong and united in this effort.

We can't forget that it is NPG's unity and member activism, combined with our power to get our message out that helped to successfully turn back any and all attempts by the open-border lobby and the Bush and Obama administrations to get Congress to pass across-the-board amnesty/citizenship for illegal immigrants in recent years. We can all take pride in those victories!

While we recognize that Congress must take the lead in writing responsible immigration laws, NPG stands 100% behind state legislators who are fighting to protect their states and citizens from a completely dysfunctional immigration system. Hopefully, their combined efforts will force Congress to act.

Finally, it is NPG's ability to shape public opinion and win over the majority of the American people on critical issues such as anchor babies, E-Verify, necessary restrictions on legal immigration, and other matters that will help us bring about positive reforms in these areas.

In all, we are 40 years into this fight, but still far from the end of the road. It falls to us to continue to battle the apathy, denial and complacency that exists in our political system and fuels our immigration problems. No one ever said we would win this battle overnight but win it we will – after all, we have the American people on our side.

NPG MEMBERS STAND BEHIND COURAGEOUS STATE LEGISLATORS

When readers open the pages of *The Washington Times* on April 24, they will come face to face with an ad bought and paid for by contributions from NPG members in the states of Arizona, Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina and Utah.

The ad, "An Open Letter to the U.S. Supreme Court," is being run in conjunction with the nation's highest court taking up the case of *Arizona v. United States*, the forerunner of recent actions by state legislatures to address immigration issues.

In the ad, NPG members make clear that "All of the state legislators who are taking the lead by supplementing enforcement of current federal immigration laws are acting at the bequest – and with the full support – of frustrated citizens." The text focuses on the social and fiscal burden states are being forced to carry due to "an inferior federal immigration system."

Members note: "As dedicated citizens, we are working with Negative Population Growth to ask that our elected leaders act immediately to bring forth critical immigration reform – and that Washington aggressively strengthen our borders and enforce existing immigration laws."

The message to the justices on the court is direct and clear: "In all, your decision in *Arizona v. United States* will have a profound and lasting impact. It will determine whether our nation and citizens can protect our future or whether we fall victim to an unacceptable immigration system."

NPG has long held that it is the duty of the U.S. Congress – not America's courts – to write our immigration laws. However, as our national lawmakers have seemingly abdicated their role in fixing today's immigration crisis, we want to thank all of our members who joined in this effort to publically stand with their courageous lawmakers and Governors who have teamed up to fight back against those who want to weaken our nation's immigration laws.

The final sentence in our NPG ad summed up our plea to the esteemed jurists by stating: "Please think about America's citizens as you consider this important case."

To read the full text of the ad, please go to www.NPG.org.

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NPG FACT SHEETS NOW IN AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS

As part of our 40th Anniversary celebration, NPG has put an extra emphasis on and made a bigger investment in our educational programs. We are proud to see that our efforts are paying off handsomely.

Weeks ago, we sent out more than 10,000 letters to teachers of grades 7 thru 12 offering them our complimentary 2012 Teacher's Packet to guide classroom discussion on population growth and related issues, and we have definitely found a welcome audience. Via mail, phones and our website during the last month, we've been busy taking requests for this exceptional educational kit which contains a student-focused U.S. Population Poster, the teacher's choice of select NPG Forum Papers and whatever number of Population Fact Sheets they need to provide one for each student.

Our updated Population Fact Sheet is designed to present the population issue in an informative, easy-to-grasp format whereby students can best understand how population growth already impacts their daily lives via greater demand for energy, rising food prices, loss of valuable land, access to clean water, and an increasingly threatened environment. It makes clear that their generation will face huge and potentially disastrous consequences in the future if we don't act now to halt and reverse today's soaring population numbers. It also calls on them to take a leadership role in helping to create responsible population policies today that will save them from living in a desperately overpopulated nation and world.

NPG is extremely thankful to the teachers who participate in this important program each year – and we welcome the legions of new teachers who understand how important it is to educate America's youth on the role they can and must play in shaping a livable world for the future.

In addition, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of NPG members who annually make a generous contribution to our special appeal to fund this project as well as our NPG scholarships.

WILL \$10 MILLION CONVINCING MARYLAND VOTERS TO SUPPORT IN-STATE TUITION FOR ILLEGALS?

This November will see the final showdown on the issue of in-state tuition for illegal aliens in Maryland. Casa de Maryland, the powerful group working on behalf of illegals in the Free State, has pledged to raise and spend \$10 million to make sure it survives.

Last May, Governor Martin O'Malley signed the law creating the Maryland Dream Act, a new taxpayer-subsidized tuition policy for certain eligible illegals. Within months, opponents collected nearly twice as many petitions necessary to challenge the new law in a referendum. Now, after a series of court cases to determine whether or not the issue can go before the voters, the field is clear for Maryland citizens to have the final say. A group called Help Save Maryland has announced that they plan to launch a strong campaign for repeal of the measure but they are not talking about raising funds equal to Casa de Maryland's.

Will money carry the day on this important issue? Let's hope more sensible voices prevail. Stay tuned.

CALL YOUR CONGRESSMAN – SUPPORT MANDATORY E-VERIFY (H.R. 2885)

The federal government has had the tool in place for years to kill the "jobs magnet" that permits millions of illegal aliens to hold jobs that should go to legal U.S. citizens, but is simply not using it. The program, commonly known as E-Verify, permits employers to confirm with the government that newly hired employees have a legitimate Social Security number that permits them to work.

Last September, Congressman Lamar Smith (R, TX) introduced H.R. 2885, the Legal Workforce Act, to mandate use of E-Verify by all U.S. employers. It is a common sense solution to a major problem that feeds our nation's ongoing immigration crisis in that it cracks down on employers hiring illegal laborers. Unfortunately, having attracted quite a few dozen Congressional co-sponsors and gotten off to a strong start last fall when it was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee, it has languished for months in the House Ways and Means Committee. There is a strong effort by many forces – especially those who reap the benefits of cheap labor – to make sure this legislation never sees the light of day.

NPG has made passage of H.R. 2885 a priority for 2012 and we urge all members to call or write their Congressman to sign on as a co-sponsor to help make it a reality. We have posted the list of current co-sponsors at www.NPG.org. If you find that your Congressman is already backing this important legislation, please call to say "Thank You" for his or her effort to pass this long-overdue legislation.

NPG FACT:

Our nation's present \$15.2 trillion debt is projected to become a \$21.6 trillion debt in 10 years. By then we may also be forced to accommodate 30 million additional people if present trends continue.

NPG VIDEO CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED

It's not too late to alert family or friends at the college level (or college-bound high school seniors) to get busy creating a video to compete for the \$7,500 in NPG scholarships we are awarding in conjunction with our 40th Anniversary.

At the request of students to give them more time to create a video while not in direct competition with their heavy academic schedule in late April, we have extended the deadline for us to receive entries to June 30, 2012.

Our video contest calls for students to: Create a one to three minute video that strongly conveys the negative effects of permitting population growth in the United States to grow to an unsustainable level of 438 million people in the next 40 years.

A total of six scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500 will be awarded. Further information can be found at www.NPG.org.

WATER, WATER...

It is almost impossible to focus on the consequences of too many people in our nation and world without the issue of water being at the center of discussions. This year, celebrants of World Water Day, March 22nd, made food security and agriculture their central theme. They put forth the stark reminder that the main cause of hunger and famine is drought and that water is vital for all agriculture. Each of us drinks between two and four glasses of water a day, but in truth it is in the food we eat that most water is consumed. Producing a pound of beef consumes about 4,000 gallons of water while producing two pounds of wheat needs 400 gallons of water.

HAVE WE GONE TOO FAR?

When it was created last year, many in Congress criticized the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's ability to set its own budget at a time when U.S. taxpayers are carrying the costs of a ballooning federal deficit. This year the head of the Bureau went to Capitol Hill to answer questions on specifics in that budget which includes the need to hire 1,400 employees – many of whom will surely be needed to fulfill the agency's offer to provide consumer information in 191 languages.

NPG condemns such a ridiculous waste of taxpayers' money!

QUOTABLE

NPG friend and researcher Dr. Albert A. Bartlett recently sent along what he calls an "operational definition" of overpopulation that is clear, simple, elegant and understandable. He writes:

"If any fraction of the observed global warming can be attributed to the actions of humans, then this, by itself, is positive proof that the human population, living as we do, has exceeded the carrying capacity of the Earth. This is clearly unsustainable."

CLAIM YOUR NPG 40th ANNIVERSARY BLANKET!

We've created a special 40th Anniversary fleece blanket and are sending it out as a thank you to members who return a gift of \$40 or more with the enclosed response form. This multi-purpose, royal blue blanket measures 72" x 52" and is embroidered with our distinctive NPG logo. Claim yours today!

PLANNING YOUR WILL?

NPG makes available, free of charge, a 24-page booklet entitled *Making Your Will: What You Should Know Before You See Your Lawyer*. If you are interested in receiving a copy please check the appropriate box on the enclosed reply. A generous bequest to NPG in our 40th Anniversary Year would be a terrific way to help us celebrate!



SIGN UP TODAY FOR OUR NPG JOURNAL AT WWW.NPG.ORG!

Population Perspectives is a quarterly publication by Negative Population Growth, a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating Americans about the devastating effects of overpopulation on our environment and quality of life.

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