

Armstrong, Karen

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Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 9:23 AM
To: Armstrong, Karen

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 13-14, 2010**

Resolution No. 23: Immigration Reform To Enhance National Security

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion respects the authority of the United States Government to apply the existing rules and regulations which govern immigration to maintain law and order within the United States; and

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) estimates that there are 11.5 million illegal immigrants who currently reside within the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, In 2006 the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Audits stated that each year more than one million aliens attempt to illegally enter the United States without proper documentation or enter legally and violate the provisions of their visa; and

WHEREAS, The United States currently has the systems and the technology in place to track foreign visitors and illegal aliens for the duration of their tenure in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A need exists for a broad exchange of intelligence and related action between regulatory agencies which govern immigration policy, social services, and the Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, The terrorist attacks of September 11th were not isolated events, but is a continuation of a long series of unprovoked terrorist attacks aimed at destroying American lives, and the very basic core values of freedom, democracy and respect for human life; and

WHEREAS, Aggressively tracking foreign visitors is a deterrent to terrorist activities and failing to effectively utilize the available systems and technology to track illegal aliens threatens the security and future of the U.S.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 13-14, 2010, That The American Legion urges Congress to adopt an immigration reform policy which emphasizes border security against those individuals attempting to enter this country illegally and internal tracking of all resident aliens and illegal immigrants; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes legislation that would result in the granting of amnesty and legal residency, in any form or by any name, to illegal immigrants currently in the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Homeland Security be provided the monies necessary to ensure both the thorough performance of its responsibilities and the security of the borders of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion opposes any change to "Title V of the Immigration and Nationality Act" (8 U.S.C. 1531-1537) that would require revealing the source(s) of secret evidence used in the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, administrative deportation hearings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the federal government to provide the needed resources to enforcement agencies tasked with curtailing illegal immigration in this country; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to mandate that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) continue and be aggressively administered by the responsible agency of the federal government; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States to provide agencies of the federal government with the necessary resources to track the arrival and departure of foreign visitors to the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Department of State be required to enforce the completion of a thorough background check and also interview each candidate for a U.S. visa prior to issuing said visa; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Department of State be responsible for tracking and arresting those visa recipients who perpetrate fraud and/or are visa overstays and that they be turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for removal/deportation processing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States and the state legislatures to pass legislation that would prohibit acceptance of certain foreign-issued forms of identification, to include the Mexican government-issued "Matricula Consular" card, when it is determined said documents lack credibility, authenticity and accuracy of information when used in the application process for federal, state and local government-sponsored public services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages businesses in the private sector, including financial institutions, to refrain from accepting as valid identification, foreign issued documents that are not determined to be acceptable forms of identification; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an agency of the federal government, determined by Congress and working in cooperation with other agencies having responsibilities for the administration and enforcement of immigration laws and policies, be tasked with determining the acceptability of forms of identification issued by foreign governments; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion, on behalf of all Americans and future generations of Americans, urge the Congress and the federal government to authorize and fund the following strategy in addressing the issue of illegal aliens in the United States:

Secure the borders and other points of entry in the United States:

(a) Construct physical barriers, as appropriate,
(b) Acquire and utilize latest technology to monitor border activity,
(c) Employ and train a sufficient number of U.S. Border Patrol Agents to effectively patrol border regions with employment preference given to former members of the U.S. Armed Forces,

(d) Utilize National Guard troops to assist in providing border security, only if authorized to use deadly force,

(e) Insure all vessels and their cargo arriving at our seaports are thoroughly searched;
Enforce existing laws and pass new laws to reduce U.S. illegal population:

(a) Reject amnesty programs for illegal aliens,
(b) Enforce immigration laws and promote cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement officials, with emphasis on interior enforcement,
(c) Establish parameters for non-criminal deportations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourages the Congress of the United States, state governments, the U.S. Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security to take necessary action to stop the massive flow of illegal immigration into this

country by means that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Hire and train additional U.S. Border Patrol agents with employment preference afforded former members of the United States Armed Forces; and**
 - 2. Encourage the United States Congress to require the Department of Homeland Security to work with state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce immigration laws in this country; and**
 - 3. Require that all legal aliens carry U.S. Government issued identification documents that are made as secure as technology allows and that are verifiable by any employer or benefit agency through an easy-to-access central database; and**
 - 4. Petition the President of the United States and the Congress to enact measures to effectively halt the smuggling of illegal immigrants into this country; and**
 - 5. Grant law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels the authority to work together to apprehend and incarcerate, where appropriate, illegal immigrants, especially those determined to have ties to terrorist groups and organizations; and**
 - 6. That, as appropriate, military resources be employed to assist in stopping the flow of illegal aliens into this country, and all of the resources of the United States of America be utilized to enforce the security of our country's borders; and, be it finally**
- RESOLVED, That The American Legion use all possible means to bring forth a solution to the challenges faced by the United States because of illegal immigration.**