



# TRANSPARENT TIMES

A Publication of the Pennsylvania House  
State Government Committee  
Representative Daryl D. Metcalfe, Chairman

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## NATIONAL SECURITY BEGINS AT HOME

The House State Government Committee held two public hearings August 30 and 31 in Harrisburg to discuss a package of bills aimed at protecting Pennsylvanians from the illegal alien invasion. During the hearings, committee members were presented with compelling testimonies on the urgent need to crack down on the three main incentives that draw illegals to Pennsylvania: stolen jobs, stolen benefits and stolen citizenship. The testimony also emphasized crimes committed by illegal aliens, such as: welfare fraud, driving under the influence and homicide.

While not every illegal alien is guilty of the aforementioned crimes, illegal aliens break local, state and federal laws daily just to exist within American society. The first crime is committed when they decide to enter the United States illegally.

Pennsylvania and the United States cannot afford to set a precedent where the rule of law is not applied equally to every individual. The National Security Begins at Home legislative package seeks to ensure that those desiring to live, work and utilize government services in the Commonwealth are here legally and comply with our laws.

During the hearings, members of the Committee heard testimony from several individuals in the law enforcement community, legal immigration advocacy groups and the American legion. The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) estimates that 140,000 illegal aliens are currently residing in Penn-

sylvania. According to Jack Martin of FAIR, "This represents a fiscal burden of \$1.4 billion a year on the Commonwealth."

Steven Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies added that of the number of illegal aliens residing in Pennsylvania, 110,000 of them are working. He noted, "It is important to recognize that the large fiscal costs illegal immigrants create are not the result of their not working. The fiscal deficit less-educated immigrants create is a direct result of the limited earning potential of less-educated workers in the modern American economy."

The issues associated with illegal aliens are not only confined to urban areas of the Commonwealth. Chief Michael Morresi of the Beaver Meadows Police Department estimated that he has personally arrested over 100 illegal aliens for various vehicle and gang related crimes. Beaver Meadows has a population of 869 residents, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

According to his testimony, he routinely finds multiple identification cards, large amounts of cash and public benefits cards from many states, including Pennsylvania. During one of his arrests, he confiscated a fraudulent ACCESS card from an illegal alien and was later ordered by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to return the card.

As Chairman Metcalfe stated at the end of the second hearing, "It is time that we take the handcuffs off our law enforcement and put them on the illegal aliens who show blatant disregard for our laws."

# REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE

The House State Government Committee held a public hearing on August 9 in Harrisburg to discuss legislation to reduce the size of the state legislature.

The size of the legislature is determined by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, specifically Article II, Section 16, which requires the state be divided into 203 representative districts and 50 senatorial districts. The population of both the House and Senate districts must be as equal as practically possible and no county, town, city, borough or township may be divided, unless it is absolutely necessary.

Reducing the size of the legislature would require a Constitutional amendment, which would need to be successfully passed in two consecutive legislative sessions and then presented to the voters in the form of a referendum.

Richardson Dilworth, the Director of the Center for Public Policy at Drexel University, told committee members that "there are good reasons for thinking that both communications technology and an increased staff has now made it possible for a contemporary Pennsylvania legislator to maintain acceptable levels of contact with many times more constituents than could a legislator in the 18th and 19th centuries, who had no telephone, email, television, photocopiers or staff."

Additionally, Dr. Charles Greenawalt, Senior Fellow at the Susquehanna Valley Center for Public Policy, said he believes that a reduction in size would contribute to improving the effectiveness of the legislature by reducing the concentration of power that has been seen in the General Assembly for generations.

## *Looking Ahead*

The House State Government Committee will be holding a hearing on September 14 regarding English as the official language of the Commonwealth. The Committee will also be holding follow-up hearings on the illegal alien invasion.

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