

Comment Report

HSB 105

A bill for an act relating to the employment of unauthorized aliens and providing penalties.

Subcommittee Members: Stone-CH, Thompson, P., Wilburn

Date: 01/31/2024

Time: 08:00 AM

Location: RM 19

Name: Sandy Wilson

Comment: Citizen Engagement declares IN FAVOR of HSB 105. Please move the bill.

Name: Kasandra Diaz

Comment: I oppose this bill!

Name: Sophie Banegas

Comment: My name is Sophie Banegas and I am a thirdyear medical student at the University of Iowa. I grew up in Cumming, Iowa and have lived here my entire life. It is my intention, as of right now, to stay here in Iowa as a physician to address the dismal quality of health in our state. Public health research shows over and over again that secure housing, social services, and access to lowcost healthcare is integral for the vitalization of communities and lowering the cost of healthcare. This means that every Iowan should have access to work in order to support their livelihoods. The consequence of this, as we already see, is overutilization of emergency services by undocumented individuals because they do not have access to primary and preventative healthcare. This creates an undue burden on state funds in order to reimburse hospitals for these high costs. By stripping undocumented individuals from their livelihoods, this problem will only become worse. Additionally, undocumented individuals are unable to obtain work permits and it is extremely difficult for them to get a job in Iowa. They are ineligible for most public assistance already, despite the fact that they are taxpaying individuals who contribute to the local economy. They are overrepresented in service jobs and essential infrastructure that keep our farmland enriched, grocery stores stocked, roads clean, buildings safe, and our city beautiful. If we continue to prevent their access to employment, and criminalize the individuals who help them, there will be a devastating negative impact on the Iowa local economy. This was seen in Florida when a similar bill was passed and over 50% of construction services were halted. Immigrants, documented and otherwise, do the hard work to keep our community functioning and productive. I will be monitoring the progression of this bill as well as how each of you vote on its progression. One thing I can assure you is that if you keep pedaling antiimmigrant bills, I will not be staying to provide the muchneeded healthcare services in this state. Additionally, I will encourage my network of physicians, politicians, healthcare workers and Iowa residents to not reelect any individuals who vote for these dangerous and xenophobic bills. Please do the right thing and stop attacking people who are unlike yourself. As your constituent, I implore you to focus my tax money and resources to protect the health, livelihoods, education, and food security of the people of Iowa.

Name: Maria Diaz

Comment: I oppose this bill

Name: Devon Gonzalez

Comment: I oppose this bill.

Name: Laura Castro

Comment: Dear subcommittee members, I am strongly against HSB 105. I am a US citizen and feel that this is a dehumanizing bill to pass against residents of Iowa that contribute to the economy greatly and have not broken any law. That is a btise economic move. I urge you to oppose HF 105 and any further bill similar to this. Thank you for your time.Sincerely, Laura Castro

Name: Mary Henderson

Comment: Access to employment is essential. I oppose this bill.

Name: Holly Rozenboom

Comment: I oppose this bill! Undocumented immigrants are extremely productive members of society! They are very important to Iowas economy. They should have the right to work! As the ACLU put it, Immigrants pay more than \$90 billion in taxes every year and receive only \$5 billion in welfare. Without their contributions to the public treasury, the economy would suffer enormous losses. Do not pass this bill!

Name: Jasmine Napoles

Comment: I OPPOSE THIS BILL.

Name: Guadalupe Rodriguez

Comment: I am a resident of Des Moines and I urge to to not let this move forward! I oppose this bill!

Name: Kelsey Howard

Comment: I oppose this bill.

Name: Ghazanfar Sultan

Comment: I am opposing this bill.

Name: Tania Perez

Comment: Oppose this bill, everyone deserves a livelihood.

Name: Brittany Macias

Comment: I strongly oppose this bill.

Name: Michelle Macias

Comment: I strongly oppose this bill. Antiimmigrant bills are never the solution to immigration reform. Immigrants play an essential role in making the economy function. Passing this bill will only hurt the economy. This bill will also hurt immigrants because there will be employers that allow them to work and these are the same employers that will overwork them and hold their legal status against them. This bill is therefore going to place employers and employees in a toxic and tense work environment. I strongly urge the committee to listen and take into consideration all the comments as this bill will impact a lot of people. Both U.S citizens and undocumented workers will be harmed as a result of this bill. Thank you for your time.

Name: Bradley Worley

Comment: This bill seems to be yet another attempt by the government to control who and how Iowans hire to perform job duties, if the vast majority of the voluntary everfication, a figure I am told is 99%, are eligible anyways, why force Iowan employees to adopt this method over the preexisting methods to hire locals? It seems like if 99% pass anyways, and some false positives could happen, and potentially teenagers could be incidentally added, doesn't this seem like a waste of Iowan tax dollars in the first place? Even if this succeeds and fires or forces many illegals in the state of Iowa to

be unemployed, is that really the victory we want to celebrate, making people jobless and therefore homeless? If you're going to have illegals in your state, and not immediately deport them back to where they came, then can't they at least work and pay income taxes while they're here waiting for their hearings? This seems like a disaster waiting to happen if you force people out of proper and genuine employment you could cause some people to resort to less than legal ways to find income to feed their families. If this still does not compel you to reconsider, can it be added that those immigrants who are in the process of applying for their green cards be given a waiver or exemption to this bill? If they are going to become Americans soon anyways, why force them to struggle financial as well until they get their green cards, a process that takes a long time? Is that really the signal we want to give out to people that if you want to be legal citizens and you're here, we're going to make you struggle even more? This seems if given an exemption it could incentivize those to apply for their green cards and or citizenship if they are eligible. Forcing them to financially struggle doesn't benefit Iowans in the first place.

Name: Jennifer Ortiz

Comment: Do NOT PASS!

Name: Jenn P

Comment: I strongly oppose this bill!

Name: Fabiha Mahmud

Comment: I oppose this bill

Name: Paola Nieto

Comment: I oppose this bill as it will create even more hardships for employers to hire seasonal employees. Many seasonal laborers are willing to work in undesirable conditions such as on top of a roof while is over 100 degrees outside, or shoveling our sidewalk when the windchill is 45 degrees, cleaning offices, cooking, and harvesting our food. If employers cannot hire these hard working individuals, whos is going to their jobs? We do not need are more homelessness in Iowa. Its clear that more, and more people are panhandling in our streets each day. I much rather see a person working, than being homeless only because no one will hire them. But I am sure that these individuals who are willing to work for the minimum in less than desirable jobs will move to a more welcoming state, and then the employee shortage will be even worst.

Name: galaxy lozano

Comment: I OPPOSE THIS BILL

Name: Kimberly Inarrito-Rodriguez

Comment: Iowa Residents do not support this bill.

Name: Lani Bucchi

Comment: I oppose this. If we want to pretend like no one wants to work, why are we punishing people for wanting to work?

Name: Lani Bucchi

Comment: I oppose this. Imagine punishing people for wanting to work while crying about no one wanting to work. Insane.

Name: Lindsay Mack

Comment: I oppose this bill! SF 108/HSB 105 aims to address immigration concerns but risks unfairly penalizing businesses and job seekers. Emphasizing more compassionate solutions would better serve both Iowa's economy and its diverse community, fostering inclusivity and understanding.

Name: Alex Philavanh

Comment: This bill is extremely harmful to a majority of the people here, if you care about human lives you will not pass this bill.

Name: Ella Miner

Comment: Vote NO to HF 105/SF 108!

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Name: Ricardo Vizcarra

Comment: I oppose this bill, as it is discriminatory.

Name: Tommy Medina

Comment: I oppose this bill. Listen to the constituents. As a small business owner this would be detrimental to a lot of businesses. Lets talk about what really matters here. the money Lets not forget the fact that they all still pay and contribute to state tax, income tax, property tax, sales tax and Federal Tax. All that money for the state would be gone. Do I have your attention? This would drive a lot of families to move to a different state, what happened to Florida would be happening in Iowa. To but things to perspective. Undocumented workers made \$12.6 billion in wages. Which they contributed 923 million to state and federal tax. This would not be a fix. In all reality the occupation that immigrants hold are jobs that nobody else would be willing to take on, especially for the pay. Now in days a documented person demands to get paid a good salary and get away with doing the bare minimum. That is the reality we live in. The vast majority of immigrants are over worked and underpaid, and all they are wanting to do is work.

Name: Sergio Garcia

Comment: I do not agree because immigrants help businesses to stay open by working with them or buying from them.

Name: Ariele Andalon

Comment: This bill prevents immigrants from becoming productive citizens in this state and business owners from achieving financial success. Many places in Iowa have a difficult enough time staffing their operations without this law being in place. I urge you to think about the longterm devastating consequences these antiimmigrant bills will have and reconsider passing them.

Name: Daniela Gutierrez

Comment: This is removing work from where it is needed the most. People will no longer be able to provide for their family. Undocumented workers make up a vast majority of the workforce, the repercussions of this are not being considered fully.

Name: Ginny Kjer

Comment: I oppose this bill. Undocumented people are commonly willing to work jobs that naturalborn citizens are unwilling to. Instead of preventing them from working, we could focus on improving the citizenship process. Most undocumented people are simply trying to have a better life than they left behind.

Name: Diana Borja

Comment: I oppose this law we are all human we all need support we are not animals we are human beings just like you maybe another color another language but we are equal for a moment put yourself in my place what if you are lacking and the only thing you want is something better we are not Criminals, we are children of the same God, we are brothers, God loves you just as he loves me. I oppose this law against

immigrants. After all, I am just your worker.

Name: Nate Holdren

Comment: For a party that is supposedly about small government, why would Republicans want to help force the government into business owners' decisions in this way? Like other recent bills on immigration this bill would harm immigrants, their families, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. It would drive people out of Iowa, harming the economy and culture of our state. This is especially ironic at a time when businesses are crying that they need more workers. Once again politicians are out of touch with normal people's lives and needs.

Name: Bianca Hernandez

Comment: I oppose this bill.

Name: Karina Cruz

Comment: I oppose. Stop harassing hard working people.

Name: Shari Rendall

Comment: Please support HSB 105 see attached letter.

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FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

January 31, 2024

The Honorable Steven Holt, Chairman
Iowa General Assembly
Judiciary Committee
Hearing Room 19
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: HSB 105

Dear Chairman Holt and other distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Shari Rendall and I am the Director of State and Local Engagement at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). FAIR is a non-profit organization that believes our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation's interests.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has three million members and supporters nationwide including 6,765 in Iowa. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR's support for House Bill (HSB) 105 which would require employers to use E-Verify to ensure a legal workforce.

Americans lose out on millions of job opportunities every year because companies seeking cheap labor choose to fill positions with illegal aliens. Since most illegal aliens come to the United States from impoverished countries with failing economies, the vast majority are willing to work for any remuneration they consider reasonable, even though the wage offered may be significantly below the market rate or even below legal minimum wage. Unscrupulous employers regularly exploit illegal alien laborers in order to cut their costs and increase their profits.

Moreover, Pew Research found in 2021 approximately 7.8 million illegal aliens participated in the US labor force and according to FAIR's 2023 Cost Study at least 25 percent of those operate in the "underground economy" – that is, they work "under the table." These individuals are not authorized to work in the United States and their employers do not comply with applicable immigration, safety, wage and hour, and tax laws. In most cases, the employer and the illegal alien willfully collaborate to violate the law. In others, employers rely



on weak employment verification requirements and voluntarily turn a blind eye to questionable identity and immigration documents.

For two decades, the United States has had a simple, effective tool that would virtually eliminate the employment of illegal aliens. The E-Verify system was created in 1997 to provide business owners with a fast, easy, accurate and free way to ensure that they are compliant with federal immigration law. It works by allowing employers to electronically and instantly check the legal work status of their newly hired employees.

To appreciate the ability of the E-Verify system to accurately screen out unauthorized alien applicants for employment, one needs to understand how E-Verify operates. In the most recent audit of the E-Verify system by Verification Information System (VIS) Transaction Data, current through Quarter 4 of Fiscal Year 2022, 98.34 percent of all employees entered into the program were automatically confirmed as work authorized either instantly (within three to five seconds) or within 24 hours, requiring no employee or employer action. Of the initial system mismatches, a mere 0.12 percent were later confirmed as work authorized. This is in contrast to the current system which essentially amounts to the “honor system” – hoping prospective employees won’t use fraudulent documents and employers will catch them if they do—which essentially has a 100 percent chance of missing at least some unauthorized applicants.

In addition to its effectiveness in verifying work authorization, E-Verify is rated very highly and positively by employers who use it. In a 2021 survey of customer satisfaction by CFI Group, E-Verify received an average score of 88 out of 100 from all new and existing users. Moreover, E-Verify is operated and maintained by the federal government, in a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration. It costs nothing for an employer or prospective employee to use. Likewise, it costs nothing to the states that require it.

With 7.4 percent of the U.S. workforce currently unemployed or underemployed as of November 2022, those who are lawfully permitted to work in this country deserve every opportunity to find jobs without competing against illegal aliens willing to work for sub-standard wages. Requiring employers to use E-Verify is therefore smart public policy because it not only protects employers from

violating the law – it protects American workers from unfair job competition and wage depression.

For the aforementioned reasons, FAIR urges you to support HSB 105. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if I may be of assistance. I may be reached by email at srendall@fairus.org or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Shari" and "Rendall" being capitalized and prominent.

Shari Rendall