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STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN

June 11, 2013

Dear Members of the United States Senate:

On behalf of the State Legislators for Legal Immigration (SLLI) coalition, I urge you to vote NO on S.744, the so-called "Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act." Candidly speaking, the Gang of Eight's amnesty legislation is out-of-touch with reality, a dereliction of duty and nothing short of a fiscal disaster for the states.

The State Legislators for Legal Immigration coalition was founded in 2007 and has membership from state legislators in 38 states. The mission of SLLI is to work together in demanding full cooperation among our federal, state and local governments in eliminating all economic attractions and incentives for illegal aliens, as well as securing our borders against unlawful invasion.

While the title of S.744 implies enhanced "border security," this is nothing more than a smoke and mirrors attempt to deceive the American people. In reality, S.744 does not provide for additional border fencing or completion of the current border fence requirements. More specifically, the legislation merely calls for the Secretary of Homeland Security to "submit the Southern Border Fencing Strategy to Congress and the Comptroller General of the United States for review."

Language in the current version of S.744 would also preempt state and local E-Verify laws. Currently, 23 states have some type of E-Verify requirement and legislation is pending in many other states. Enactment of S.744 is a violation of states' rights and would undo the hard work of many state legislatures. Preempting state and local E-Verify laws through S.744 would ultimately hurt hardworking taxpayers.

Most egregious of all, S.744 allows for amnesty of an estimated 11 million illegal aliens currently living in United States. The "DREAM Act" incorporated into S.744 would be a nightmare for states, as illegal aliens who entered the United States before age 16 would be put on a path to citizenship. And, S.744 also includes a provision for in-state college tuition for illegal aliens. Out-of-state students will be forced to pay a higher tuition rate, while foreign national illegal aliens will be granted a reduced price tag on education, subsidized by American taxpayers.

Simply put, states cannot afford to bear the additional budgetary burdens of amnesty through S.744. The Heritage Foundation recently estimated that amnesty comes with a hefty price tag of \$6.3 trillion. This includes over 80 different types of welfare-based programs, at a nationwide cost of \$900 billion a year. Municipalities across the United States will also have to sustain the increased cost of population-based services, including: police, fire and core infrastructure (roads and bridges). The cost of amnesty will ultimately be passed on through tax increases on hardworking Americans.

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S.744 is a rehashing of old ideas under the guise of updated rhetoric. Congressional amnesty has not worked in the past and history is doomed to repeat itself here. Granting amnesty to tens of millions of illegal aliens who broke the rule of law entering the United States is an attack on the American dream. Congress is crushing the American dream for those who are waiting in line to legally enter the United States. This legislation is offensive to legal immigrants and citizens of the United States.

Again, State Legislators for Legal Immigration respectfully urges you to represent American interests, not foreign interests, and vote NO on S.744.

For Liberty,

Daryl D. Metcalfe  
State Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Founder, State Legislators for Legal Immigration

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