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House of Representatives
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STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

June 10, 2013

Senator Pat Toomey
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

As members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, we 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.

Language in the current version of S.744 would preempt state and local E-Verify laws. Last session, the General Assembly successfully passed the Public Works Employment Verification Act (Act 127 of 2012) by a supermajority of votes. This legislation requires all public works contractors and subcontractors, both state and local, to use the free federal E-Verify system to confirm the employment eligibility of each new employee. Enactment of S.744 would undo the hard work of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

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." The focal point of S.744 is also the U.S.-Mexico border. While we agree that the southern border is a major thoroughfare for illegal immigration, Congress should not ignore the other points of entry into the United States, specifically the Canadian border. Pennsylvania is situated as a "right of way" between the eastern Canadian points of entry and the southern portion of the United States and we have a vested interest in keeping our northern borders safe from illegal entry.

Most egregious of all, S.744 allows for amnesty of an estimated 11 million illegal aliens currently living in United States. The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) estimates that 180,000 illegal aliens are residing in Pennsylvania. The "DREAM Act" incorporated into S.744 would be a nightmare for Pennsylvania, 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, we 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 estimated cost of \$900 billion yearly. Our municipalities 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 the hardworking Pennsylvanians.

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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 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, we respectfully urge you to represent American interests, not foreign interests, and vote NO on S.744.

For Liberty,

Daryl D. Metcalfe
State Representative

DDM: jli
CC: Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation

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