Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Jubilee Ministry

Immigration Legislation - 2011

Unsubsidized In-State Tuition – Senate Bill 126 (support)
Status: Passed Senate; Failed House Education Committee

The bill allows undocumented students who graduate from Colorado high schools to attend state-sponsored colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates. While they would not be eligible for the tuition subsidies that the state provides to its resident citizen students, they would still pay far less than students coming to Colorado from out of state. The sponsors of this bill point out that not only would it make a college education more attainable for these students; it would actually raise as much as $430,000 a year in extra tuition revenue for the state.

Bond for Defendants Who May be in the Country Illegally – House Bill 1088 (oppose)
Status: Passed House; Failed in Senate Committee for State, Veterans & Military Affairs

This bill would force bail bondsmen to forfeit their bond if a defendant is deported before trial. This would, in effect, make obtaining bond nearly impossible for those defendants who are eligible for deportation, regardless of whether they are guilty of any crimes.

Measures to Strengthen Enforcement of Laws – House Bill 1140 (oppose)
Status: Passed House; Failed in Senate Committee for State, Veterans & Military Affairs

This bill prohibits local governments who decline to participate in the federal "secure communities" program from receiving certain public monies. The secure communities program allows federal agents to check the immigration status of everyone who is arrested, even if charges are later dropped.

Colorado Council of Churches

Colorado Interfaith Voices for Justice

Proof of Citizenship for Voter Registration – House Bill 1252 (oppose)
Status: Passed House; Failed in Senate Committee for State, Veterans & Military Affairs

This bill requires the Secretary of State to compare information in the voter registration system to other state and federal agency records to determine the citizenship status of registered voters. A notice would then be sent to registered voters the secretary believes are not a United States citizens, and they have 90 days to submit documentation to the secretary.

Definition of identification for Voter Registration – House Bill 1003 (oppose)
Status: Passed House; Failed in Senate Committee for State, Veterans & Military Affairs

This bill would require those wishing to vote to present a government-issued photo ID.

Verification of Lawful Presence: Public Benefits – House Bill 1149 (oppose)
Status: Died on the calendar in the House Committee of the Whole

This bill would require those applying for public benefits to present their Social Security card, rather than simply attesting that they are citizens.

Unauthorized Employment – House Bill 1309
Status: Passed the House; failed in Senate Committee for State Veterans & Military Affairs

The bill would require employers to provide proof to the state's labor department within 20 days of request that employees are in the country legally. Employers who fail to comply or provide fraudulent documents would be fined up to $5,000 for first offense and up to $25,000 for subsequent offenses. It authorizes the labor department to conduct random audits, and requires to the department to report annually to the legislature on these requests, audits and fines.

Proof of Citizenship for Voter Registration – Senate Bill 18 (oppose)
Status: Failed in Senate Committee for State, Veterans & Military Affairs

The bill requires proof of citizenship to register to vote in Colorado.

For Questions or more information about these bills, please contact:

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