

Oppose Anti-Immigrant Attacks Now!

By Elenora Giddings Ivory

[December 12, 2005] Please call your Senator and House Representative TODAY. The message:

Oppose H.R. 4437. This enforcement-only bill is anti-immigrant, unfair, and unjust. - I urge you to oppose H.R. 4437 during tomorrow's mark up in the Judiciary Committee, and in particular to oppose Titles II ("Combatting Alien Smuggling and Illegal Entry and Presence"), IV ("Detention and Removal"), VI ("Terrorist and Criminal Aliens"), and VIII ("Immigration Litigation Abuse Reduction").

House Switchboard: 202-225-3121
Senate Switchboard: 202-224-3121

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The House is expected to vote Wednesday or Thursday on the bill authored by James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Peter King (R-NY), H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act. The bill was passed out of the House Judiciary Committee last week.

ACTION ALERT: As reported last week, the House Judiciary Committee has once again mounted a frontal assault on the due process rights of non-citizens in this country by passing the Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (HR 4437). Click here to view the text of the legislation (<http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=11536>) or here to view a section-by-section analysis of the most troubling provisions (<http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=18126>). In short, this 170-page bill would criminalize unlawful presence; strip judicial review; gut due process for aliens, permanent residents, and U.S. citizens; broaden expedited removal; expand criminal liability to reach family members, employers, and immigrant advocates; increase mandatory detention; place unrealistic and counterproductive restrictions on naturalization; expand the already overbroad aggravated felony definition to reach mere unlawful presence; create new grounds of deportability and removability; and militarize the border.

The full House is scheduled to consider and vote on this atrocious legislation on either Wednesday (12/14) or Thursday (12/15) of this week! Click here to view the action alert and send a letter to your Members of Congress

(<http://capwiz.com/aila2/issues/alert/?alertid=7614761&type=CO>).

In conjunction with our coalition partners, AILA also is organizing a day of action on Wednesday (12/14). Every single one of us needs to call and write to our Members of Congress, making it crystal clear that the vast majority of Americans adamantly oppose anti-immigrant proposals that negate our constitutional commitment to fair process. More information and specific instructions, including talking points, will be posted to InfoNet soon. Additionally, AILA and our coalition partners will run an ad in the major newspaper on Capitol Hill on Wednesday opposing this devastating bill.

Get angry, get engaged, and make a difference now!

BACKGROUND--

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT ACTION ALERT:
OPPOSE SENSENBRENNER'S BORDER PROTECTION BILL!

What is the "Border Protection" Bill?

House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) introduced the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (H.R. 4437), an enforcement-only bill that threatens asylum-seekers, noncitizens, and their families. Before 9/11, many in Congress agreed that Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) was so harsh, they were ready to "Fix '96." This will go further than the worst, most onerous provisions in IIRIRA.

Status: In TWO DAYS the House Judiciary Committee will review this bill.

The bill will reach the House floor for votes NEXT WEEK. House leadership is on a mission to pass this enforcement-only legislation before the December 17th adjournment. This misguided and harmful proposal is going to move rapidly through the House and WE NEED TO ACT NOW to prevent its final passage!

What does the Border Protection Bill do? (A summary of the bill is attached to this email.) The bill proposes several draconian measures, only some of which are listed below. If passed, it would:

- * Expand expedited removal to the interior, denying removal hearings for noncitizens.
 - * Make unlawful presence in the United States a crime.
 - * Deny automatic review in the Circuit Courts, requiring that a single Circuit Court judge first grant permission before the appeal can be filed.
 - * Make the 3- and 10-year unlawful presence bar apply to everyone, not only people who leave the U.S. This would have disastrous consequences for people applying for green cards in the U.S.
 - * Deny voluntary departure to individuals who want to appeal to the BIA.
- This would force any asylum seeker to give up her appeal if she wants voluntary departure.
- * Greatly expand the aggravated felony definition to include a broader array of smuggling offenses.
 - * Bar asylees and refugees with aggravated felonies from becoming lawful permanent residents.
 - * Overturns the Supreme Court's ruling in Leocal by making any non-citizen convicted of three drunk driving convictions deportable.
 - * Expand several aggravated felony categories.

-- Information is taken from several Immigration advocacy groups in Washington.

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