

**PRESIDENT**

Daniel Stein

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Bob Dane

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Donald A. Collins Jr., Chairman

Duane Austin

Douglas E. Caton, Maj. Gen., USAR (Ret.)

Kevin Donaleski

James Dorcy

Frank Morris, Ph.D.

S. Blake Swensrud II

**NATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS**

Nancy Anthony

The Hon. Louis Barletta

Sharon Barnes

Gwat Bhattacharjie

Gerda Bikales

The Hon. Brian Bilbray

J. Bayard Boyle Jr.

Hugh Brien

John Brock

Pat Choate, Ph.D.

Donald A. Collins Sr.\*

Clifford Colwell, M.D.

Thomas Connolly

Alfred P. Doyle, M.D.

Dino Drudi

Paul Egan

Bob Eggle, Capt., USAR (Ret.)

Sarah G. Epstein\*

Don Feder

Robert Gillespie

Joseph R. Guzzardi

Hessie L. Harris

Dale Herder

Sheriff Thomas Hodgson

Glenn Jackson

Carol Joyal

The Hon. Richard Lamm

Roy C. Lierman

Donald Mann

Jack Martin

K.C. McAlpin

Scott McConnell

James G. McDonald, Esq.

Paul K. Nachman

Peter Nuñez

Fred Pinkham, Ph.D.

Randall Pullen

Bruce S. Reid

Teela Roche

The Hon. Alan Simpson

The Hon. Lamar Smith

John Philip Sousa IV

Alan N. Weeden

The Hon. Curtin Winsor Jr.

\*Board of Directors Emeritus

*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.*



February 26, 2021

The Honorable Jamie Becker-Finn  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Room 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Becker-Finn and other distinguished members of the 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, non-partisan organization of concerned individuals who believe that our immigration laws must be reformed to serve our nation’s interests.

FAIR advocates for immigration policies that reduce the harmful impact of illegal immigration on national security, public safety, the economy, jobs, education, healthcare and the environment.

Founded in 1979, FAIR has three million members and supporters nationwide including approximately 3,500 in Minnesota. On behalf of our members and supporters, I am writing to express FAIR’s opposition for House File (HF) 1163 that grants driver’s licenses to those in the United States illegally.

If enacted, HF 1163 provides for Minnesota to issue driver’s licenses to illegal aliens. Providing driver’s licenses to illegal aliens is bad public policy and frustrates the purposes and objectives of federal immigration law.

Federal law clearly states under what circumstances a person may legally reside in the United States. An illegal alien, by definition does not possess lawful immigration status or lawful presence and is subject to immediate removal.<sup>1</sup> Granting driving privileges to illegal aliens treats them as if they are lawfully present in the U.S. and facilitates further illegal conduct.

A driver’s license is useful to create an appearance of lawful presence and serves as the virtual passport to the nation, opening many doors that would otherwise be unavailable. In addition to giving an individual the ability to

<sup>1</sup> See the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. §1101, *et seq.*



travel freely throughout the country, it also is used for countless other purposes like registering to vote and applying for government benefits, as well as for establishing bank and credit and credit card accounts. Giving illegal aliens driver's licenses provides them with the major form of identification used by U.S. citizens. The bottom line is that granting illegal aliens driver's licenses aids and abets their efforts to live and work illegally in the United States.

Moreover, granting driver's licenses to illegal aliens obscures the intent behind the Real ID Act. The goal of the Real ID Act is to ensure that the documents were not provided to individuals that would do us harm.

Unlike legal immigrants, illegal aliens are not subject to stringent background checks or face-to-face interviews to determine whether they pose a national security threat. The nineteen September 11 terrorists carried among them over 30 state driver's licenses and identification cards. These documents allowed them to board the airplanes they hijacked to attack this nation, obtain housing, transportation, and other accommodations, without raising suspicion while they carried out their deadly conspiracy.

Further, granting a driver's license to illegal aliens accommodates and rewards those who violate our immigration laws and encourages others to follow the same path. States that grant driver's licenses to illegal aliens become magnets for illegal immigration. It also gives prospective immigrants little incentive to pursue legal paths to immigration when they can side step the process and gain the same benefits.

For the aforementioned reasons, I urge you to oppose HF 1163.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide my 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](mailto:srendall@fairus.org) or by phone at 202-328-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shari Rendall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shari Rendall