



Website



Contact



Biography



News

August 4, 2010

## Missouri Stays Tough on Illegal Immigration

Recently, an Arizona immigration law has attracted a lot of attention, especially since a federal judge prevented vital parts of the law from going into effect at the request of the Obama Administration. Arizona's actions have brought to light growing concerns throughout the nation over the safety and security of our borders. However, many seem to have forgotten actions taken over the past several years here in Missouri. I know that immigration reform is a central issue throughout our state, and I want to outline some of the actions we have taken to protect Missourians.



A comprehensive immigration reform measure was passed in 2008 to make Missouri's point of view on immigration clear. However, earlier actions paved the way for the sweeping measure. In 1999, the legislature passed a law making it clear that employers who employ illegal aliens cannot be eligible for state incentives. This law was expanded in 2008 when we

passed another law requiring that tax credit applicants who employ illegal aliens will be ineligible for such programs and will have to repay all credits redeemed while employing undocumented workers. To further protect Missouri jobs in 2008, we passed legislation making it so those employing illegal aliens are subject to the suspension of their business permits and licenses or exemptions; preventing contractors who work with the state from employing illegal aliens; and requiring businesses to participate in the federal work authorization program in order to be eligible for state contracts.

Another important concern in Missouri is ensuring that our state does not become a safe-haven for illegal aliens. In 2007, we passed a resolution that was approved by the voters to establish English as the official language in the state of Missouri. We also outlawed "sanctuary cities" by passing a law barring municipalities from adopting policies designed to give illegal aliens sanctuary. A law passed in 2004 requires anyone applying for a driver's license to show proof of citizenship. We expanded the law in 2008, blocking illegal immigrants from obtaining a driver's license from Missouri, and ensuring that a driver's license issued to an illegal alien in another state is not valid in Missouri. Another provision requires public assistance recipients to prove residency before receiving any benefits.

Enforcement is another major issue in the nation's immigration policy, but we have focused on providing Missouri law enforcement with the tools to keep our state safe. The 2008 law created a memorandum of understanding between the federal government and Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) to have members trained to enforce federal immigration laws. According to the MSHP, 10 members of the patrol have been trained at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. We also passed a measure requiring law enforcement officials to verify the lawful presence of those they arrest. From August 27, 2007, through June 12, 2010, a total of 17,487 immigration status checks have been run. To date, MSHP has determined that 573 individuals were in the U.S. illegally. Those individuals were delivered into Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody.



Illegal immigration creates a problem in our state because it threatens the job security and essential services available for Missourians. Our state's current statutes make Missouri's stance on illegal immigration clear: zero tolerance.

The work to stop illegal immigration, however, is far from over. We must continue to demand that the federal government secure our borders, enforce federal law, and never grant amnesty to those here illegally.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) | [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

