



**Judicial
Watch**TM
*Because no one
is above the law!*

STATEMENT OF CHRISTOPHER J. FARRELL
DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS & RESEARCH FOR JUDICIAL WATCH
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
AUGUST 3, 2006

Judicial Watch is a non-profit, non-partisan, public interest group promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in government, politics and the law. Through our educational endeavors, Judicial Watch advocates high standards of ethics in our nation's public life and seeks to ensure that political and judicial officials do not abuse the powers entrusted to them by the American people. We stand for the rule of law.

Judicial Watch fulfills its educational mission through litigation, investigations and public outreach. Our national headquarters is in Washington, DC, and our southeast regional office is in Miami, Florida.

Judicial Watch's programs continue to investigate, document, report on, and litigate important public interest matters with respect to illegal immigration. We make use of open records and open meeting laws, conduct field investigations, work with government whistleblowers and, when necessary, go to court to uphold the rule of law.

Across the country, communities such as Palm Bay are wrestling with the consequences of our nation's illegal immigration and border security crises. States, counties and municipalities are pursuing different strategies to cope with the grim realities they face in dealing with these matters.

Municipal efforts to enforce fair, uniform and lawful business practices can create the conditions necessary for vibrant economic growth and development, while respecting lawful workers' rights, and protecting the community tax base in the interests of all citizens.

The core problem behind illegal immigration is the employment magnet. The lure of a job in the United States has drawn millions of people to unlawfully enter our country and obtain employment in direct violation of federal immigration laws.¹

The human dignity of illegal aliens is under assault in a myriad of ways. Their home countries offer little or no economic, political or educational opportunities. Faced

¹ 8 U.S.C. § 1324 states the criminal penalties of "bringing in and harboring certain aliens" while 8 U.S.C. § 1324a provides against the "unlawful employment of aliens."

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with those prospects, it's not surprising that desperate people take desperate actions. I certainly do not begrudge anyone who desires to make a better life for themselves and their family – but they must do so legally. In their desperation illegal aliens place themselves outside the law and in the hands of criminals who profit from their dire straits.

Ruthless human smuggling gangs exploit illegal aliens in their quest to unlawfully enter the United States and find both employment and a place to live. These

sophisticated, multinational, criminal gangs illegally transport human beings into the United States as though the illegal aliens were a commodity.² It is a vicious big business with tentacles across the country operating drop-houses, forgery rings, money laundering fronts and other criminal enterprises. Illegal aliens pay these criminals thousands of dollars to be smuggled into the United States – often working-off the debt in near hostage-like conditions.

Unscrupulous U.S. employers abuse the illegal alien's unlawful immigration status by cheating them on wages and demanding unreasonably long work hours, while denying these illegal workers insurance and other mandated employment benefits. They also often dodge paying payroll taxes.

These same unscrupulous employers drive down wages for fellow American citizens. An increase in the supply of less-educated workers reduces the wage cost requirements for employers – a fact of basic economics. Supporting the downward spiral of this wage formula only makes sense if you believe the poor are somehow being overpaid.

Increased taxpayer expenses for subsidizing additional public costs such as healthcare and government services for illegal aliens are also a consequence of unlawful business practices. Sixty percent of illegal aliens lack a high school diploma. Such unskilled labor pay relatively little in taxes regardless of their immigration status simply because they earn so little in today's economy.³ The public services are going to be provided, but what does that mean for the American taxpayer?

Choosing to ignore these unlawful business practices is not a “neutral” position. Public inaction actively contributes to an underground culture of corruption that has an enormously corrosive effect on the fabric of our society. It rewards lawbreaking. It makes both law-abiding employers and legal immigrants look foolish for taking America's laws seriously.

² See: Dennis Wagner, “Human Trafficking's Profits Spur Horrors,” *The Arizona Republic*, July 23, 2006.

³ See: James P. Smith and Barry Edmonston, Editors; “The New Americans: Economic, Demographic and Fiscal Effects of Immigration,” *National Research Council*, 1997.

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Individuals and political pressure groups that support this unofficial second-class existence subscribe to a form of “false compassion” that guarantees indentured servitude for illegal aliens, and contributes to the hollowing-out of the American middle class – a trend that analysts have described as our national economic “race to the bottom.” In my view, this is a shortsighted, unjust and ultimately cruel position that also happens to fly in the face of the law.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this evening.