

ACA 6 Limiting Public Benefits to Illegal Aliens Talking Points

- 1. ACA 6 is a state constitutional amendment limiting public benefits to illegal aliens. It prohibits “the state from issuing any driver's license, state identification card, providing in-state tuition or fees for postsecondary education, granting any voting privileges, or providing any health, social, or other state or local public benefit to any person who is neither a citizen of the United States nor an alien lawfully present in the United States, unless the privilege, service, or the benefit is required to be provided pursuant to federal law.**
- 2. According to the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), “2,209,000 illegal aliens resided in California in 2000, according to the government’s immigration figures. Thirty-two percent of all illegal immigrants live in California, making the state home to the largest population of illegal immigrants in the country.”**
- 3. Among the many costly problems impacting our state due to illegal immigration are increased crime in the inner cities and border neighborhoods from gangs, lack of security (increasing the threat of terrorism), drug and sex trafficking, lower educational standards and outcomes, voter fraud, and financial burdens to our medical facilities, educational system and social programs.**
- 4. By prohibiting public benefits to illegals immigrants, who have already committed a crime by entering the country illegally, ACA 6 will reduce at least some of the incentive for crossing the border. Fewer illegal immigrants will mean lower crime rates. In an article published in City Journal, Heather MacDonald states, “In Los Angeles, 95 percent of all outstanding warrants for homicide (which total 1,200 to 1,500) target illegal aliens. Up to two-thirds of all fugitive felony warrants (17,000) are for illegal aliens...A confidential California Department of Justice study reported in 1995 that 60 percent of the 20,000-strong 18th Street Gang in southern California is illegal; police officers say the proportion is actually much greater.” (“The Illegal Alien Crime Wave” 1/04)**
- 5. Issuing identification cards or drivers’ licenses to non-citizens represents a threat to national sovereignty and safety. We should not provide someone, who has already broken the law by entering the country illegally, with an instrument to make it easier to obtain public benefits and harder to distinguish them from legal residents.**
- 6. California families have for too long borne the burden of providing state benefits to people who enter our state illegally. The latest Census data indicates that California’s illegal population is costing the state taxpayers more than \$10.5 billion each year for education, medical care and incarceration alone. (FAIR)**
- 7. The billions of dollars saved each year could be used to balance the state budget and improve the lives of California citizens. The outcomes of ACA 6 would likely include lower health insurance rates, decreased crime, greater border security, increased educational standards and outcomes, and decreased unemployment.**

