

Altmire Offers Commonsense Immigration Reform to Secure America's Borders

(Washington, DC) - Today, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-4) joined Congressman Heath Shuler (NC-11) and 82 other bipartisan lawmakers in introducing legislation that will provide a commonsense framework for securing America's borders, enforcing current law, and cracking down on employers for hiring illegal immigrants. The Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act calls for the hiring of 8,000 new border patrol agents to secure our borders and will require every American employer to verify its employees' eligibility to work in the United States.

"Americans have said time and again that they want a commonsense solution to curb the flood of illegal immigration into the United States - one that respects our nation's borders and the rule of law," said Congressman Altmire. "The SAVE Act refocuses our efforts to where we will be most effective: at the border and in the workplace. This bill provides real immigration reform by increasing much-needed manpower along our borders and addressing the issue of employers hiring illegal immigrants."

"Today, Democrats and Republicans are joining together, putting politics aside, and supporting a commonsense bill that is for the good of America," said the bill's lead sponsor Congressman Heath Shuler (NC-11). "If you are serious about ending the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States, you will support the SAVE Act."

"I thank Congressman Altmire for his leadership in putting together the SAVE Act - a commonsense, middle-ground enforcement solution to the illegal immigration that is increasingly threatening Pennsylvania's workers and communities," said Roy Beck, President of NumbersUSA, the Nation's largest pro-immigration enforcement organization. In addition to NumbersUSA, the bill is also endorsed by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR).

The SAVE Act would:

- Increase border patrol agents by 8,000, utilize new technology and fencing to secure the border, and expand specialized enforcement programs such as the - Tunnel Task Force;
- Require every employer to verify its employees' eligibility to work in the United States within four years of enactment through the Employment Eligibility Verification program, the first system to fully share information from government databases including those of the Social Security Administration, State Department, birth and death records, and state drivers licensing agencies;
- Increase investigative abilities of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) by employing more agents and increasing cooperation between ICE and state and local law enforcement; and,
- Create a new infrastructure for the detention, processing, and removal of illegal aliens by increasing detention facility capacity and streamlining the judicial process.