

E-VERIFY: CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS

- **There is no other legislation that can be enacted that will create more jobs for American workers.**
- Twenty-four million Americans want a full time job, but can't find one. Of these, 19 million are Americans without a college degree who compete most directly with unskilled illegal immigrant workers. And according to the Pew Hispanic Center, seven million people are working in this country illegally. **These U.S. jobs should go to legal workers.**
- Twenty-five percent of Hispanic Americans have only a high school education. And the same is true of 30 percent of African-Americans. **The unemployment rate among African-Americans is 16.7% and among Hispanics it's 11.3%.**
- **E-Verify, currently a voluntary program, quickly identifies those working illegally.** Making it mandatory for all employers will open up more jobs for Americans and legal immigrants. It is an electronic employment eligibility verification system available free online. Social Security numbers and immigrant identification numbers of new hires are checked against SSA and DHS databases to help determine work eligibility.
- **Nearly 290,000 businesses currently use E-Verify and 1,300 new businesses sign up each week.**
- **Persons eligible to work receive immediate confirmation 99.5% of the time.**
- E-Verify has received overwhelming bipartisan support since its creation as a pilot program in 1996. It was extended in 2002, 2008 and 2010. **In 2008, the House passed a stand-alone five year extension of E-Verify by a vote of 407 – 2.** And in 2009, the Senate passed a permanent E-Verify extension by voice vote.
- **The American public has consistently supported E-Verify.** A May 2011, Rasmussen poll found that **82% of likely voters “think businesses should be required to use the federal government’s E-Verify system to determine if a potential employee is in the country legally.”** And the breakdown of the Rasmussen poll shows that individuals from all races and political affiliations support the use of E-Verify. In fact **78% percent of African-Americans agreed, 72% of other minorities agreed, 73% of Democrats agreed and 85% of “moderates” agreed.**
- And a 2010 Zogby poll of minorities commissioned by the Center for Immigration Studies found that 88% of minority likely voters polled support “reducing the illegal immigrant population over time by enforcing existing immigration laws (such as requiring employers to verify the legal status of workers...).”