

The Immigration Issue & Employers

Florida Senate – January 24, 2011



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

"The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920"

Brewster B. Bevis

Vice-President External Relation

Jose L. Gonzalez

Vice-President Governmental Affairs

Who We Are...

- Member-driven, Business Association
- 10,000 Members Across the State of Florida
- Membership Consists Of:
 - Manufacturers – State affiliate for **NAM** National Association of Manufacturers
 - Agriculture
 - Phosphate Companies
 - Utilities
 - Telecommunication Companies
 - Insurance Companies
 - Retailers
 - Over 40 Business and Trade Associations
 - *“And Everything-in-Between”*



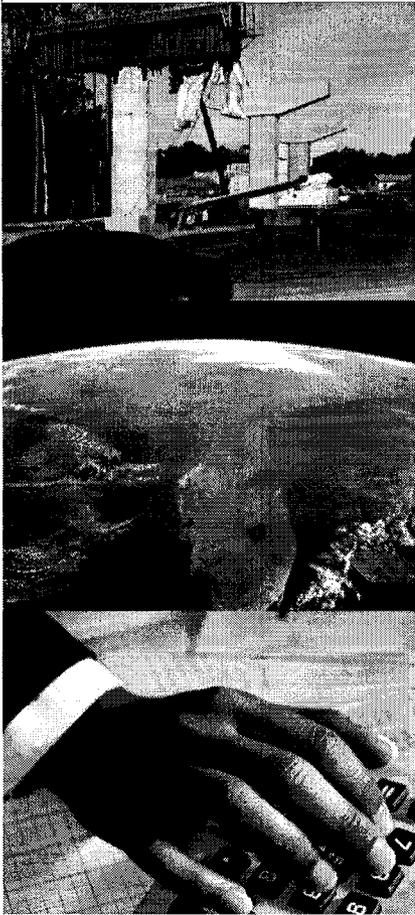
“The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920”

How We Got Here...

AIF Board of Directors adopted policy position back in 2007 Supporting:

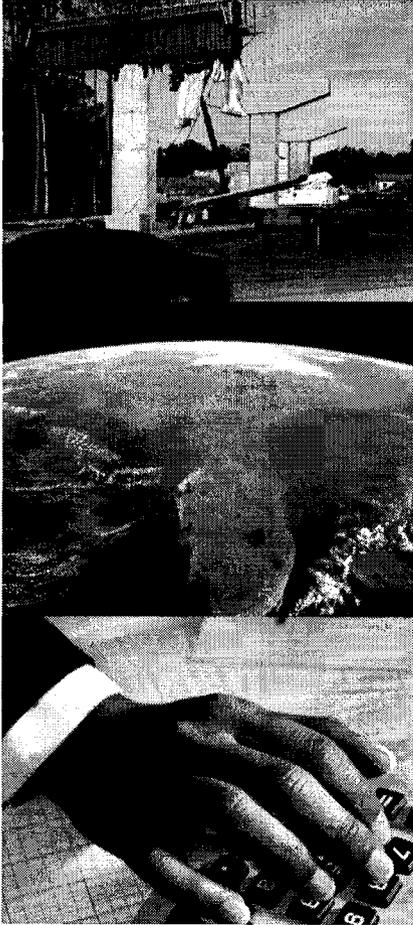
- Reforming the nation's immigration policy to facilitate a sustainable workforce for the American economy while ensuring national security.
- **Temporary** Guest Worker Program for law abiding workers
- Creation of a workable and reliable employee eligibility verification system that can be used by both large and small employers to determine an employee's legal status.

2011 Immigration Task Force



"The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920"

Taking the Pulse of the Business Community



Concerns over Mandatory E-Verify

Industry-specific concerns

- Agriculture
- Manufacturing/Hi-Tech
- Construction
- Tourism

“Essential Workers”



"The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920"

A Florida Under Mandatory E-Verify



A “Flawed” System?

- Westat Study (December, 2009)
- SSA Internal Audit (January, 2010)
- GAO Report (December, 2010)
- E-Verify does not deter Identity Fraud

Liability for Failures of the System

- How “Safe” are Safe Harbors

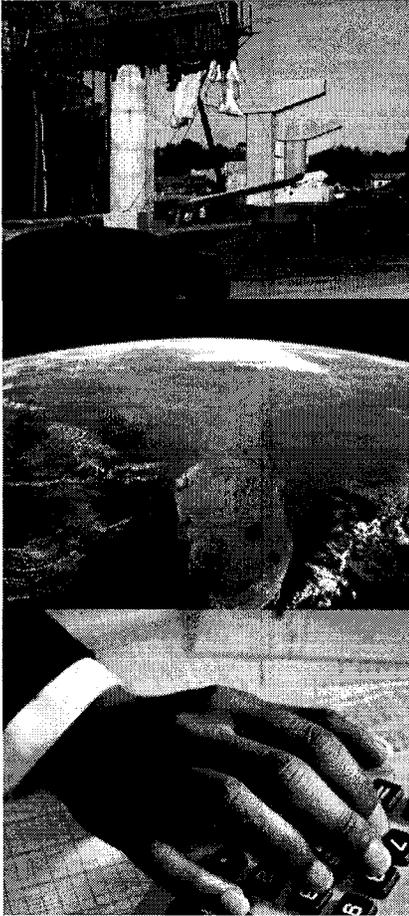
Large vs. Small Employers

A patchwork quilt of state local immigration laws



“The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920”

Immigration Policies Affect Industries Differently



Agriculture:

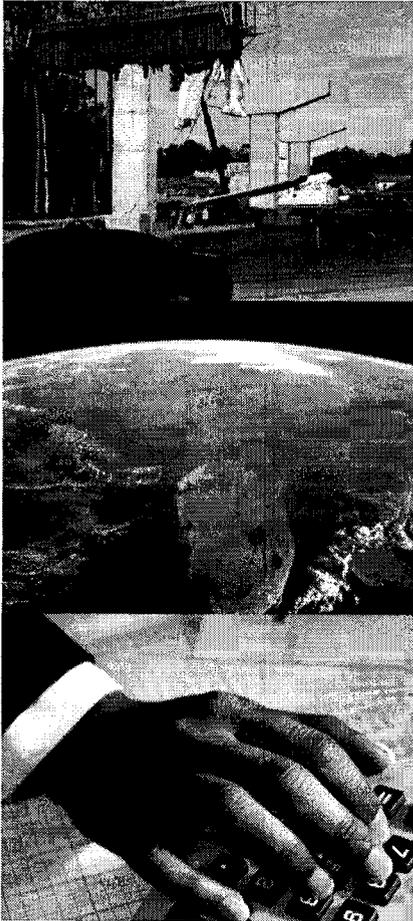
- Access to labor force essential
- Demand for H-2A visas outpaces supply
- Perishable commodities necessitate available workforce
- “Native-born” workers unresponsive to job opportunities
- Un-level playing field
- One possible approach: AG Jobs Bill:

An "earned legalization" program enabling many undocumented farm workers and H-2A guest workers to earn a "blue card" - temporary immigration status with the possibility of becoming permanent residents of the U.S. by continuing to work in agriculture and by meeting additional requirements.



"The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920"

Immigration Policies Affect Industries Differently (cont.)



Manufacturing/Hi-Tech:

- Access to H-1B visas
- Ability to attract foreign born workers to the state

Construction:

- Economic recession has shifted labor force to other sectors – primarily agriculture
- Contractor – Subcontractor Relationships

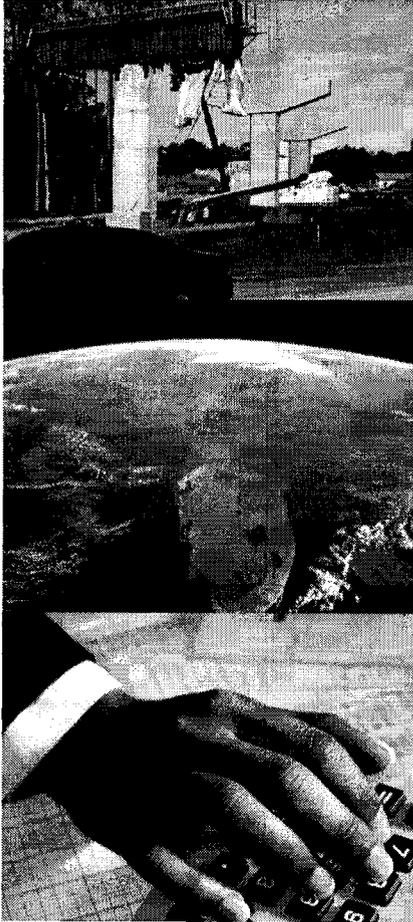
Tourism:

- “Florida Brand directly tied to our Tourism Brand”



“The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920”

Looking Ahead...



Many employers view this sector of the labor force as “Essential Workers”

Relationship between:

Employers <--> Essential Workers <--> Consumers/Economy

Governor’s Executive Order on E-Verify

Business community wants to be a part of the solution



“The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920”

Questions?



www.AIF.com

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

"The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920"

Brewster B. Bevis

Vice-President External Relation

Jose L. Gonzalez

Vice-President Governmental Affairs