



Immigration: Facts, Myths and Public Policy
Volume I

Anti-Immigration Groups in Georgia:
The Current Context in 2005

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Research Series on Immigration

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Introduction

On January 7, 2004, President Bush renewed a national dialog on immigration reform, declaring our immigration system as a failed policy in need of reform to ensure national security, to continue economic development and to protect the rights and dignity of the millions of undocumented workers.¹ In addition, the President pledged to Mexican President Vicente Fox his continued commitment to work on a “compassionate” and “rational, common-sense immigration policy.” However, his pledge was tempered with the clarification that as President, he is not a member of the U.S. Congress, and could not promise that the U.S. Congress would reach a solution.²

Governor Sonny Perdue recently supported President Bush’s call for immigration reform stating, “I applaud the President. We have a certain degree of hypocrisy about how we treat immigrants. Nevertheless, it’s the moral, right thing to do to address immigrants, documented and undocumented, to meet the needs

¹ President Bush Proposes New Temporary Worker Program, 1/7/04,
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/01/20040107-3.html>

² President Meets with President Fox and Prime Minister Martin, 3/23/05,
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/03/20050323-5.html>

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of workers and citizens in our country.” Governor Perdue explicitly recognizes the importance of the Latino community as an asset as Georgia competes to become the Secretariat of the Free Trade Area of the Americas.³ In fact, the Latino community’s importance extends beyond Georgia and affects the South itself. Citing the approaching retirement of baby boomers and accompanying labor shortfalls, the Southern Growth Policies Board’s 2004 report⁴ concludes: “the South’s future depends in large measure on the performance of the foreign-born population.”⁵ The Globally Competitive South report supports defining immigration policy as a pressing market need, given the demographic circumstances of heightened immigration to the South and, more specifically to Georgia, the dependence of many segments of Georgia’s economy on low-wage labor. Many Georgia industries—including agriculture, health care, hospitality, construction and higher education—rely upon immigrant labor, whether documented or undocumented, which contributes to maintaining a cap on costs.⁶

³ Rincon, Melissa. “What is Governor Perdue saying about Hispanics?” Atlanta Latino Newspaper, 2/4/05.

⁴ Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue is an officer of the Board of Directors.

⁵ Jim Clinton, Carol Conway, and Linda Hoke, “The Globally Competitive South (Under Construction),” in *2004 Report on the Future of the South* (Southern Growth Policies Board: a project of the Global Strategies Council, 2004).

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The debate in Georgia on immigration and immigration reform will likely continue as immigration reform policies at the national level have yet to be resolved, and there is consensus that it is “broken” and in need of repair. The differences reside in how to repair the broken system, which range from advocating a more lenient immigration policy to accommodate a free flow of labor across our borders to a strict enforcement of existing immigration laws prior to any reform. Neither of these proposed policy positions, in isolation, is a viable solution. Rather, the solution must somehow enable the United States to enforce a viable immigration policy that, on the one hand, does not disrupt economic considerations while, on the other hand, also controls entry to this nation in a way that ensures our national security.

A pattern of thoughtful, informed and civil discourse is required to arrive at a viable immigration reform model. Regrettably, the debate in Georgia has been shaped by disinformation perpetuated as fact by anti-immigrant groups, including The American Resistance and The Christian Coalition of Georgia, among others. This research series, entitled *Immigration: Facts, Myths and Public Policy*, will present and analyze critical aspects of the immigration debate as it has taken shape in Georgia. The series, moreover, will critically examine the disinformation operational model extant among various groups who have made immigration a

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major issue, and who have taken strong stands against further immigration or of hard enforcement of existing immigration laws, or both. Patterns of disinformation will be identified and scrutinized regarding immigration and its purported multidimensional impact upon Georgia and our nation. Beyond presenting the patterns of disinformation regarding immigration, the research reports in the series will counteract the disinformation patterns in the interest of promoting and contributing to informed civic discourse and policy alternatives through (1) analysis of specific dimensions associated with immigration, including education, economic impact, public safety, growth/sprawl, culture/citizenship, and healthcare, and (2) dissemination of the research-informed analyses.

There is a pressing need associated with presenting information that promotes and enables constructive inquiry, informed dialogue and sound policy alternatives. Immigration, both documented and undocumented, and ethnic diversity are a demographic reality that touches every aspect of socio-economic and cultural life in the United States—and will continue to do so for the remainder of this century as these two highly related groups rise in population and influence, and the population of the white, non-Hispanic group decreases. Hispanics will comprise the vast majority of immigrant and ethnic groups across the nation. The immigration-related phenomenon reaches every corner of the

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United States, and as a hypergrowth phenomenon is particularly visible in Georgia and other states within the Southeast United States.

According to a recent study (March 21, 2005) by the Pew Hispanic Center, the number of undocumented immigrants is approximately 11 million in the United States, despite current efforts to control illegal immigration through “higher fences, hordes of agents and hundreds of sensors.” The study finds close to a third of undocumented immigrants (31%, or 2.6 million) have arrived since 2000 and that approximately 57% (6.27 million) are from Mexico and another 24% (2.64 million) are from elsewhere in Latin America. In addition, the greatest growth has been experienced in non-traditional immigrant states, particularly in the Southeast. Georgia has an estimated 300,000 undocumented immigrants, or 3.4 percent of the state's population.⁷ The Pew study also found that one-sixth of the undocumented immigrant population, approximately 1.7 million, were children under 18 years of age.⁸ The report further illustrates that Mexicans having legal or undocumented status represent approximately 32% of the foreign-born population in the United States, “a high figure by historical standards but not

⁷ Borden, Teresa. “11 million in country illegally, study says”. *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 03/22/05 and Population by State (2005): Georgia's July 2004 population. Latter document retrieved on august 6, 2005 at <http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0004986.html>

⁸ Passel, Jeffrey. “Estimates of the Size and Characteristics of the Undocumented Population.” Pew Hispanic Center Report, March 21, 2005.

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unprecedented; both Irish and German immigrants accounted for a higher percentage of the foreign-born population at various points in the mid- and late-19th century.”⁹

Another recent study, conducted by the Bear Stearns Asset Management firm concluded that estimates such as those used by the Pew Hispanic Center are likely capturing only half of the undocumented immigrant population. The report states that official census immigration statistics significantly underestimate the number of “extra-legal” immigrants. When school enrollment and housing permits, among other variables, are considered, the Bear Stearns report concludes the estimated undocumented immigrant population to be 20 million.¹⁰

In 2003, 37% of all babies born in the Atlanta Medical center were of Hispanic origin, up 12% from 2000.¹¹ The article by Pascual (July 7, 2004) also states the following: The number of births in the state of Georgia of Latino babies grew by 643%, from 2,263 in 1990 to 16,819 in 2002; during this same time period non-Hispanic whites demonstrated a flat growth rate while non-Hispanic blacks’

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Justich, Robert & Betty Ng, CFA. “The Underground Labor Force is Rising to the Surface.” Bear Stearns Asset Management, January 3, 2005.

¹¹ Pascual, Aixa. “Baby boom: High birth rate among women in Georgia’s burgeoning Latino community leads an upsurge in business for many metro Atlanta hospitals and prenatal clinics.” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Newspaper, July 7, 2004.

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growth rate was 4%; Latino babies account for approximately 13% of all births in Georgia, a dramatic increase when compared to the 2% it accounted for in 1990.

Not having a federal solution to a failed immigration policy has led to individual states initiating anti-immigrant legislative proposals to deal with the issue of undocumented immigration and its purported impact at the local and state levels. For example, on the heels of the 2004 passage of Arizona's Proposition 200, which "[r]equires proof of eligibility for non-federally mandated public benefits",¹² a group of bi-partisan Georgia state legislators introduced House Resolution 256 (HR-256), calling for a Georgia constitutional amendment to ban *all* public services to undocumented immigrants, including all publicly funded healthcare, K-12 education, and access to higher education¹³. Additionally, HR-256 calls for the full cooperation of local law enforcement officials in the state to work closely with immigration authorities to enforce federal immigration laws. The proposed ban on K-12 access to education has one distinction from other measures being introduced in several states: It is clearly in conflict with the 1982 U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Plyler v. Doe*, which upheld that educational access to

¹² The Arizona Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act Initiative Petition # I-03-2004. Retrieved on August 8, 2005 at <http://www.pan2004.com/>. The proposition also requires proof of citizenship when registering to vote and proof of identity when voting.

¹³ Georgia General Assembly (2005). 05 LC 21 8131ER House Resolution 256 – Illegal aliens; bar from receiving public funded services – CA by R. Williams (R), B. Franklin (R), R. Forster (R), M. Scott (R), J. Jamieson (D), & J. Meadows (R). Retrieved August 6, 2005 at http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/search/hr256.htm

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public K-12 education would be guaranteed to all children regardless of their immigration status.¹⁴ HR-256 proposes state intervention and state enforcement of a failed federal immigration policy. This proposed bipartisan constitutional amendment is one of several legislative initiatives introduced in the 2005 Georgia General Assembly that deal with federal immigration enforcement at the state level.¹⁵

Finally, as the country continues to engage in this national dialogue, state and local governments must be wary of enacting legislation or policies which encourages local regulation and enforcement of federal immigration policies. What is needed is a rationally- and factually-grounded debate to determine a comprehensive and robust immigration reform measure that can be effectively and equitably implemented. It is the purpose of this series of papers to provide to leaders and other readers in the state of Georgia information in the form of research-informed analyses and policy alternatives to assist in the framing and articulation of this dialog, and in the democratically robust legislative and policy measures that ensue.

¹⁴ The Supreme Court decision overruled a “revision to the Texas education laws in 1975 [that] allowed the state to withhold from local school districts state funds for educating children of illegal aliens” quote from *Plyler v. Doe* 457 U.S. 202 (1982) Docket Number: 80-1538 Abstract. Retrieved on August 6, 2005 at <http://www.ovez.org/ovez/resource/case/309/>

¹⁵ See, for example, Georgia State Assembly SB170 and HB911.

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Anti-Immigration Groups in Georgia

The Current Context in 2005

The phrases “immigration reform” and “immigration control,” though seemingly neutral, have taken on connotations based on their use in the current political context. U.S. Representative Tom Tancredo's (R-Colorado) Immigration Reform Caucus, for example, is focused more on limiting immigration and decrying its effect on American society than on the stated definition of its reform platform, namely to: “Review current immigration policy, propose new immigration policies and provide a forum in Congress for addressing the positive and negative consequences of our immigration policies.”¹

This first paper lays the groundwork of the debate by identifying the significant organizations and individuals who have made immigration control a major policy issue. It is intended to document some of the debate and disinformation being circulated rather than presenting an analysis on the phenomenon. The organizations highlighted run the gamut from moderate to extreme, but share a pattern of positions and arguments against immigration. One-sided arguments by definition neither present an accurate picture of the immigration phenomenon nor do they promote reasoned debate or contribute to sound policy plans or

¹ Tancredo, 2004, retrieved January 20, 2005 at <http://www.house.gov/tancredo/Immigration/about.html>



decisions. Arguments predicated on predetermined conclusions are fallacious and capricious, and must be confronted as they readily promote or reinforce negative stereotypes, breed confusion, and foment or heighten discontent and hostility toward immigrants.²

Public perception of immigrants is often influenced by misinformation, rumors, and anecdotes masquerading as fact. In Georgia, groups ranging from ad hoc immigration control groups to white nationalists' march, organize, and lobby for immigration reform. Their policy goals are varied, with some aiming to decrease levels of legal immigration and others focused on enforcing existing immigration laws. They bolster their claims that immigration threatens American society with a parade of bald statements and boiled statistics. Their arguments stem from a pre-existing belief that immigrants cost the United States more than they contribute to it: monetarily, socially, and culturally.³

A perusal of news stories on the origins of such groups reveals that they start when the pace or kind of immigration their community experiences is perceived

² For more information, see "Stereotypes Can Reinforce the Status Quo." Stanford Graduate School of Business (http://www.gsb.stanford.edu/news/research/ob_stereotypes.shtml). Additional information available at "Stereotyping." Public Service Commission of Canada. (http://www.psc-cfp.gc.ca/publications/monogra/mono3_e.htm)

³ For more information: Steve Sailor, "We Need More Robots, Not More Illegal Aliens." (http://www.parapundit.com/archives/cat_immigration_economics.html)

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as a threat.⁴ Georgia is ripe for such sentiment. As the director of the National Immigration Forum notes, "Immigrants' arrival has been sudden, the numbers are high, the impact is visible and the infrastructure is unprepared."⁵ Jimmy Herchek's "Citizenship Matters" newsletter is illustrative of this organized anti-immigrant phenomenon.⁶ The newsletter focuses on the strain on natural and civic resources he attributes to immigration. Such arguments have long held currency at state and national levels with immigrant control advocates.

When Chamblee, Georgia, found itself changing in 1992 from a sleepy blue-collar neighborhood into what many Latino immigrants in Atlanta call "Little Mexico City," long-time residents initially resisted the change and gained national notoriety with their anti-immigrant statements, as journalist Marc Ballon points out:

Seven years ago, in its Warholian 15 minutes of fame, Chamblee became a poster city for xenophobia and economic backwardness. Specifically, officials in a city-council meeting responded to complaints about Hispanic day laborers by proclaiming, in one council member's words, that residents should set bear traps in their yards to prevent the workers from littering and defecating on their property. Another council member suggested forming vigilante

⁴ For more information: "Track 'Em Down: The Facts, Illegal Immigration." (<http://home.att.net/~trackitdown/immigration.html>)

⁵ Borden, Teresa. "Georgians monitor Arizona vote; immigrant rights on the ballot." *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 10/27/04.

⁶ Hercheck, Jimmy. "Information about the effects of immigration on Georgia." (http://spofga.org/immigration/2004/dec/citizen-ship_matters.phtml). See also "Free Yellow" newsletter at <http://herchek.freeyellow.com/newsletter5.html>).

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groups. Added the chief of police, "Your problem will continue until these people go back where they came from"... Ernie Stallworth, a senior mediator with the U.S. Department of Justice, which launched an "intervention" in the wake of the infamous council session [remarked] "You had institutional and systemic racism--a good old boy's system that worked well if you were white and didn't work at all if you weren't."⁷

Ballon further states, "The city reinvented itself. It integrated its police force. It created a specially zoned district to showcase immigrant businesses and began trying aggressively to capitalize on the demographic changes. As a result, the city has become a promised land for Latino, African, and Asian immigrants: there are an estimated 100 immigrant-owned businesses, from Vietnamese restaurants to Chinese-language bookstores to Mexican record shops. The new enterprises, in turn, have rescued distressed properties, fattened the tax rolls (Chamblee's net taxes levied jumped 6% in 1997), and added spice and color to the town."⁸

Through these series of papers, we will demonstrate that assertions claiming that immigrants cost the United States more than they contribute are unsupported by the vast body of objective evidence assembled by academic

⁷ Ballon, Mark. "The Melted Pot." *Inc. Magazine*. February 1999.

⁸ Ibid.

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researchers, policy experts, and public commissions. The United States of America is, of course, a nation of immigrants, and this collection of papers once again contributes evidence that current immigration is a net economic gain for our culture.⁹

In spite of the above, anti-immigrant groups such as The American Resistance, Georgians for Immigration Reduction, the Georgia Heritage Coalition, the Georgia National Alliance, the Georgia National Vanguard, the National Socialist Movement, the Christian Coalition of Georgia, the Council of Conservative Citizens, Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Southern Party of Georgia, and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) have all identified immigration as the source of a great many scourges upon American society. These groups range from ad-hoc policy organizations to racial separatists, but their arguments against immigration are strikingly similar. This series of papers will investigate assertions that immigration increases the unemployment rate, has a negative impact on social services, negatively impacts

⁹ For additional information: American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2003, retrieved on January 27, 2005 at <http://www.aila.org/contentViewer.aspx?bc=17.142&pf=true>; George Borjas, 1995, retrieved on January 27, 2005 at <http://ideas.repec.org/a/aea/jecper/v9y1995i2p3-22.html> and 1991, retrieved on January 27, 2005 at <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/Immigration.html>; Butts, 2002, retrieved on January 26, 2005 at <http://www.business2.com/b2/web/articles/0.17863.514770.00.html>.

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healthcare, causes crime, overcrowds schools, leads to sprawl, and has a negative impact on American culture.

Interestingly enough, in 2000 a survey of American adults found the problems such anti-immigration groups blame on immigrants to be the most important local issues, but only a miniscule percentage of respondents (2%) listed problems with immigrants as a concern. This suggests that the vast majority of the American public did not at that time accept anti-immigrant groups' efforts to scapegoat immigrants for the problems that preceded their arrival.¹⁰

Following 9/11, however, concern about immigration was heightened, and polls showed many more Americans questioning national immigration policies and their enforcement. According to general findings of a poll conducted in 2004 by National Public Radio, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government:¹¹

Americans are less negative about immigration than they have been in several years...The public's views on immigration are significantly less negative than they were in the months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Forty-one percent of the public now says that legal immigration to the United States should be decreased. This is

¹⁰ National Survey for the Pew Center for Civic Journalism conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates. This national survey of adults aged 18 and older was conducted on behalf of the Pew Center for Civic Journalism, an initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts. A representative sample of 1,004 adults was interviewed by telephone during the period October 6 through October 31, 1999.

http://www.pewcenter.org/doingcj/research/r_ST2000nat1.html

¹¹ NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School (2004). *Immigration Survey*, 1-10. Retrieved October 6, 2004 at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/Immigration-in-America-Summary.pdf>

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much lower than the 59% that CBS News and the *New York Times* found when they asked the same question in December 2001.

The NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School telephone survey was composed of a nationally representative sample of 1,888 respondents, 1,104 (58.5%) of whom were non-immigrant and 784 (41.5%) who were immigrants. Survey responses sometimes differed according to immigration status and the age at which immigration occurred. For example, 59% of the non-immigrant respondents felt that “illegal immigrants have hurt the national economy” and 51% felt that “recent immigrants take jobs away from Americans who want them” (although only 12% to 15% supported this statement with evidence based on experience, even once-removed).¹² Immigrant and non-immigrant respondents agreed (61% vs. 64%, respectively) on what kind of country the U.S. *is* (“A country made up of many cultures and values that change as new people come here”) but differed drastically (39% vs. 62%, respectively) with respect to what kind of country the U.S. *should* be (“A country with a basic American culture and values that immigrants take on when they come here”). The responses to the survey by children of immigrants—in this case, those who arrived at the age of 10 years or younger and who were at least 18 years old at the time of the survey—were

¹² Ibid., p.2

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“indistinguishable from other non-immigrants.”¹³ Anti-immigrant groups exploited this general climate of fear and distrust of immigrants and the anti-American values they purportedly embrace and exacerbated it by using the inflammatory rhetoric that predated the tragedy and manipulating the horrifying images of 9/11 to stir xenophobia and protectionism.

Funding immigration control and anti-immigration groups

One way in which immigration-control groups shape the debate is by founding nominally independent organizations that are in fact funded by the same wealthy benefactors. In this way, a range of positions can give the appearance of real debate over immigration policy. In fact, these groups represent the same positions along a scale from a moderately negative approach to immigration to more extreme positions calling for an end to all immigration, both legal and illegal.

The Pioneer Fund, the foundation responsible for financing research for the book *The Bell Curve*, provides major support for many of the best-known immigration control groups. Another major funding source of such groups is the Mellon family fortune. As Brugge (1995) reports:

Cordelia Scaife May supports FAIR, US English, the Center for Immigration Studies, and others to the tune of \$2.5 million. May's

¹³ Ibid., p.1

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political agenda is made clearer by her foundation's underwriting in 1983 of the distribution of *The Camp of the Saints* by Jean Raspail, a book in which immigrants from the Third World invade Europe and destroy its civilization."¹⁴

Determining the source of funding of anti-immigrant and immigration control organizations becomes a necessary component of needed overall analysis. Further research is warranted in this area to provide a richer perspective of how these organizations operate and raise funds.

What detractors say about immigration: Immigration Reform and Backlash

The plethora of research that exists today is the result of immigration reform efforts in the 1980s and the subsequent anti-immigrant backlash. As Doug Brugge states in *Public Eye*:

In the 1980s, anti-immigrant sentiment grew during the debate over immigration reform. Supporters of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 argued that immigrants were stealing jobs and draining the economy, and that political turmoil in Mexico and Central America would spill over into the US. Defenders of immigrants argued that immigrants are, in fact, a positive force in the American workforce and that the US is historically a nation of immigrants.¹⁵

¹⁴ Brugge, Doug (1995). "Pulling up the ladder: The anti-immigrant backlash." *The Public Eye*. 9(2):1-10. Retrieved on August 7, 2005 at <http://www.publiceye.org/magazine/v09n2/immigran.html>

¹⁵ Ibid.

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In 1965, Congress replaced the 1952 legislation that allocated visas by country with a formula that allotted twenty percent of visas to skilled workers and six percent to refugees, with the remainder going to family members in order to reunite families. It is this family reunification principle, the cornerstone of every major piece of immigration legislation since 1965, which has been questioned in recent years by legislators and others, including researchers such as George Borjas, who favor the granting of immigration visas based upon the degree to which the immigrant increases the skill-base of the U.S.¹⁶

The first claim worthy of challenge is that immigrants are not contributing to the tax base. Native-born citizens, legal immigrants, and undocumented immigrants pay taxes. They pay local taxes, such as sales taxes, when they purchase goods or services; property taxes, either directly when they own property or indirectly if they rent; and income taxes, which are drawn from their pay. Those working without appropriate legal documentation may even overpay payroll taxes as they are frequently eligible for refunds they do not receive. Immigrants pay federal and state income taxes as well, whether as legal residents, or, if undocumented, by getting an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from the Internal Revenue Service.

¹⁶ Borjas, George F. *Friends or Strangers: The Impact of Immigrants on the U.S. Economy*, 1990.

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There is a strong tendency to conflate crossing the border without documentation with a host of other social, economic and cultural ills. For example, a posting on the American Resistance website stated:

The instant they plant foot on American soil, they have broken the law. From that moment, they become a plague on every American's quality of life—crowding our hospitals and schools and welfare roles, forcing many American services into bankruptcy. They infest our nation with drugs, destroying our children as the crime rate soars. [A]s the plague accelerates, few of our elected leaders care to even mention the problem.¹⁷

In Europe, many countries are experiencing similar backlashes. As one writer notes: "Dishonest anti-immigration campaigners, manipulating both statistics and government figures and playing on the fears and anxieties of a gullible public, have taken to putting out sensational forecasts about a future under siege from an invasion of desperate and greedy migrants."¹⁸ Research conducted by the Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees (ICAR) in the UK found that "hostile and inaccurate reporting contributes to increased hostility by the public

¹⁷ Accessed originally on 10/25/04 at www.stoptheinvasion.com. Please note that this website address no longer exists in the same form or substance or intent, and does not relate in any way to the subject matter referred to and quoted herein. Please refer to "The Attack Of The Aliens" by Tom DeWeese at <http://www.rightwingnews.com/reader/aliens.php> for this content; retrieved on August 7, 2005.

¹⁸ Moorehead, Caroline (May 3, 2004). "Necessary Lies," in *Eurozine*. Retrieved on August 7, 2005 at <http://www.eurozine.com/article/2004-05-03-moorehead-en.html>

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and in turn to tension and even racial harassment.”¹⁹ Kofi Annan stated that “Europe’s anti-immigration rhetoric was ‘de-humanising’ people.”²⁰ European anti-immigrant groups also foster a blurring of distinctions between different types of immigrants, such as economic migrants or refugees.

American organizations use many of the same techniques, and anti-immigrant groups and sentiments have existed since the early days of the republic. During periods of economic uncertainty, the national discussion of immigration is more susceptible to manipulation by such groups. It is imperative that the impulse to blame newcomers be counteracted by a careful examination of, and adherence to, the facts.

Anti-immigration groups have largely succeeded in shaping the debate over immigration as an issue of competition between natives and immigrants. Part of the reason for their success is that immigration has historically been geographically concentrated in a small number of densely populated receiving cities whose services are sometimes strained by the new arrivals. While immigrants’ collective contribution remains a net benefit as a whole, some parts of the United States bear a largest proportion of the cost compared to the benefit they receive. Where competition between immigrants and natives exists, it

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

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occurs in three arenas: competition for jobs, state resources, and national identity. Localities experience greater or lesser competition depending on the state of the economy, the rate of immigration as it changes over time, public access to goods and resources, and the extent to which the immigrant group assimilates native social mores. Money (1997) considers it to be the case that:

net public demand for tighter immigration control increases in localities where immigrants concentrate when those areas experience higher unemployment, rapid increases in immigration, higher immigrant proportions, and more generous immigrant access to social services. Each of these conditions aggravates competition between immigrants and natives.²¹

Many groups conflate all immigrants with undocumented immigrants or refer to an ethnic group as synonymous with immigrants. For example, in a discussion of "illegal immigration driving up costs to healthcare and welfare system," the Georgians for Immigration Reduction website text asserts that "at least 70% [of Hispanic welfare clients in Georgia] are estimated to be illegal aliens," without citing any reference sources to support its claim.²²

As the United States continues its debate on developing a solution to a failed immigration policy, Americans should be made aware of the key issues and

²¹ Money, Jeannette. "No Vacancy: The Political Geography of Immigration Control in Advanced Industrial Countries." *International Organization* 51, 4, Autumn 1997, pp. 685–720.

²² Georgians for Immigration Reduction (n.d.). "Illegal immigration driving up costs to hospitals and welfare system." Retrieved on August 7, 2005 at <http://www.breathingroom.us>

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dimensions related to the costs and benefits of immigration and how immigration policy directly impacts their lives. Civic discourse and community sentiment and action should not allow for disinformation to bias public opinion against immigrants and their contributions to the well being of the nation.

Anti-immigration and immigration control groups active in Georgia

But like immigrants, they [anti-immigrant groups] moved into other states [after Prop 187]. From Colorado to Ohio to Georgia, they pulled together and sometimes hosted Californian anti-immigrant leaders at rallies. "Georgia is at the front of the arc [of reaction to the problem]," said Frank Sharry, director of the National Immigration Forum, a pro-immigration think tank based in Washington. "Immigrants' arrival has been sudden, the numbers are high, the impact is visible and the infrastructure is unprepared."²³

In Georgia, groups with a focus on immigration, as well as those with an immigration platform, range along the ideological spectrum from moderate to extreme. It is perhaps easy for those holding public office to discount the more extreme voices, yet the groups adopting a more moderate approach identify many of the same issues as problems and advocate similar solutions. The

²³ Teresa Borden, "Georgians Monitor Ariz. Vote; Immigrant Rights on the Ballot," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, October 27, 2004.

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difference between the extremist and the moderate groups is often merely one of tone, not of substance.

Nationalist groups such as **The Southern Party of Georgia (SPOG)**, want to severely limit immigration of any kind, stating, "The rate of immigration (whether legal or illegal) is just too high."²⁴ Under the heading "Information about the Effects of Immigration on Georgia" is the statement "immigration is out of control – one effect is increased crime." No additional information is given to support the assertion, and even a perfunctory glance at the crime literature reveals the statement to be untrue. SPOG also asserts that immigrants pose a threat to American culture.

The **Georgia Heritage Coalition** focuses on cultural arguments against immigration. As one columnist writes, "considering there are few in any given district who keep up with how politicians vote and the like, it's not surprising we are losing so much of our American and Southern heritage to 'outsiders'."²⁵ Another commentator puts it even more starkly, "It's them against us folks and

²⁴ www.spofga.org [this source must be elaborated upon, including the exact text title and related information]

²⁵ Sears, Carl. "Political Parties Ignore Immigration Problems" Monday April 26, 2004 (Ware Op Ed News).

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they don't aim to lose."²⁶ The Heritage Coalition's concerns seem to be primarily job loss to immigrants and what they perceive as threats to Southern culture.

The **Council of Conservative Citizens** has a health focus:

The invasion of illegal aliens pouring over the borders of the United States is taking an ominous turn. They are not alone! Their bodies may carry Hepatitis A, B & C, tuberculosis, leprosy and Chagas Disease. Chagas is a nasty parasitic bug common in Latin America where 18 million people are infected and 50,000 deaths occur annually. Illegal aliens, by avoiding health screenings at U.S. borders, carry TB, the most serious being MDR, a multi-drug resistant tuberculosis-with a higher death rate than cancer.

The Council lists contact information for NumbersUSA, another anti-immigrant group associated with the Pioneer Fund.

Jimmy Herchek, of **Georgians for Immigration Reduction (GIR)**,²⁷ is another frequent contributor to the American Patrol's collection of anti-immigrant reports and news items. GIR was formed in 2002 to "inform the public of the many costs of mass immigration," and calls for "a return to more traditional levels (around 230,000/year) of immigration."²⁸ The group claims not to accept funding from corporations or the wealthy, but is closely aligned with the American Resistance in ideology, method, and by their frequent presence at protests.

²⁶ Jim Dean, "Congressman Tancredo on the Immigration Madness," *Georgia Heritage Coalition*.

²⁷ Mr. Herchek is also associated with Citizenship Matters, Marin Watch, and Zamarripa Watch. His association with GIR was recently cited by The Albany Herald On-line (February 20, 2005), retrieved on August 7, 2005 at <http://www.albanyherald.com/frontsarchive/0205/front022005.html>

²⁸ www.breathingroom.us/about2.html

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The **Christian Coalition of Georgia** has shown a keen interest in immigration as well. In 2004, one news article stated, "Opposition to [Bush's immigration plan] runs so deeply that the Christian Coalition of Georgia, a conservative pro-family organization, has dedicated a panel discussion for later this month that will focus on the pitfalls of Mr. Bush's plan. The Christian Coalition of Georgia has invited Rep. Tom Tancredo, Colorado Republican and staunch critic of Mr. Bush's immigration proposal, to lead its panel discussion on immigration."²⁹

In March 2005, the Christian Coalition of Georgia hosted another panel on immigration reform. Panelists included: Mark Krikorian, Executive Director of the Center for Immigration Studies; Jim Staudenraus, Director of Governmental Affairs from the Federation of Americans for Immigration Reform; State Representative John Lunsford (HD-110, McDonough), Chair of House Immigration Reform Caucus; State Senator Chip Rogers (SD-21, Woodstock), Chair of Senate Immigration Reform Caucus; and Donald Arthur King (D.A. King), columnist and founder of The American Resistance. The panelists were preceded by speeches given by U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and Republican candidate for Georgia Lieutenant Governor, Ralph Reed. Both

²⁹ James G. Lakely, "Bush, Backers Part Ways on Immigration Reform," *The Washington Times*, January 20, 2004.



Senator Saxby Chambliss and Ralph Reed highlighted their positions on immigration reform and President Bush's proposal. Senator Chambliss was supportive of President Bush's effort to provide a national solution while Mr. Reed spoke against any form of amnesty.³⁰

During the March 2005 conference and upon her introduction of the Immigration Reform panelists, Sadie Fields, Chair of the Christian Coalition of Georgia, made the following comments regarding immigrants: "Not only are they breaking the laws but they are breaking our infrastructure from healthcare...and that directly impacts the family...in the form of higher taxes and soaring medical costs...not to mention the threat that illegal immigration poses to our national security." She further added that, "we believe our elected officials have an obligation to address the increasing problem of people that break our laws to come here."³¹

A national group, **The Federation for American Immigration Reform**, holds itself up as a voice of reason in the immigration debate, and its leaders often appear at Congressional hearings and panels on immigration. Yet the think tank is connected to more extreme and even racist voices of the **Pioneer Fund**, the

³⁰ Lares, Carlos. "2005 Georgia Christian Coalition Conference: Immigration Reform Panel", Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials and the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund, 3/23/05. Available at www.galeo.org.

³¹ Ibid.

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foundation that funded research for *The Bell Curve*, a book widely disparaged for its poor statistical methods that claims to have evidence that African-Americans are less intelligent than whites.³² As one Kansas newspaper reported, another anti-immigration group, ProjectUSA, "has received \$25,000 in a three-year span from the Pioneer Fund, an organization whose original charter included 'race betterment' as one of its goals. According to the organization's web site, its president, J. Philippe Rushton, has "documented evidence that descendents of Africans are, on average, less intelligent, less socially organized and practice less sexual restraint than East Asians, Europeans and their descendents."³³

As the media watchdog group Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR also) notes, the Federation for American Immigration Reform has been cited several times in news reports on immigration. It and the Center for Immigration Studies are generally presented as ideology-free institutions of scholastic research. In fact, the two organizations are closely linked both financially and intellectually.³⁴ The relationship between the Federation for American Immigration Reform, the Center for Immigration Studies, The American

³² <http://www.fair.org/reports/pioneer-memo.html>

³³ Mark Wiebe, "Racial Slights Not Always in the Eye of the Beholder," *The Kansas City Star*, October 20, 2004.

³⁴ "Questions About Source in Immigration Debate: Group Has Links to Racist Fund."
<http://www.fair.org/reports/pioneer-memo.html>

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Resistance, the Southern Party of Georgia, and Georgians for Immigration Reduction is a maze of shared funding and reliance on the same few studies of questionable scientific validity. The study cited most often by all these groups is that of Texan Donald Huddle. The Federation relies almost exclusively on Huddle's largely discredited work for its report on the "costs" of immigration.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, has also accepted funding from heiress Cordelia Scaife May, who provides millions to support The Federation for American Immigration Reform, U.S. English, the Center for Immigration Studies, and other anti-immigration groups. As one journalist notes, "May's political agenda is made clearer by her foundation's underwriting in 1983 of the distribution of *The Camp of the Saints* by Jean Raspail, a book in which immigrants from the Third World invade Europe and destroy its civilization."³⁵ The Federation's website lists local organizations by state, including two in Georgia: Georgians for Immigration Reduction (<http://www.breathingroom.us>) and The American Resistance Foundation (<http://www.theamericanresistance.com>).

At the 2005 Christian Coalition of Georgia Conference, Mark Krikorian, Executive Director of The Federation for American Immigration Reform, began

³⁵ Brugge, "The Anti-Immigrant Backlash."

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his argument by asking, "What do we do about illegal immigration?" He added that there are only a few options, "one is we round up all illegal aliens [put] them into boxcars and send them all...back to Mexico in the middle of the night." He lamented that this is not a viable option and would not likely happen.³⁶

These views by Mark Krikorian were downplayed by Sadie Fields, executive director of the Christian Coalition of Georgia, in an article written about the conflicts between Latino Evangelicals and conservative Republicans. Reverend Julian Herrera of Norcross summarized the statements made by Mark Krikorian at the March 2005 Christian Coalition of Georgia Conference: "They said they needed to ship us back to our countries like a UPS package," he said. "They blamed us for traffic congestion and overloaded hospital emergency rooms."³⁷ Ms. Fields denied these comments as having been made during her conference, stating:³⁸ "We are one of the most generous countries in the world. We do expect people to come here legally and to assimilate into our culture." She continued her statement, concluding that illegal immigrants break the law in coming to this country and place a burden on our public services, including hospitals and

³⁶ Lares, Carlos. Op. cit.

³⁷ Mary Lou Pickel, "Illegal immigration polarizes Christians - Many ask, what would Jesus do?," The Atlanta Journal Constitution, August 10, 2005.

³⁸ Her statement was inaccurate and misleading as to what actually was stated. For a complete transcript of the Christian Coalition Conference, visit www.galeo.org, under Reports & Publications.

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schools. She also alluded to the danger of illegal immigration by referring to the threats of terrorism, yet one more fear tactic used by many anti-immigrant groups.³⁹

Although there are a number of organizations involved in anti-immigrant lobbying in Georgia, one man seems to be behind the scenes in every group: **Donald Arthur King** (a.k.a. D.A. King). He is alternately listed as, “founder of The American Resistance Foundation,” “an active member of Georgians for Immigration Reduction,”⁴⁰ and “a former United States Marine.”⁴¹ King, who has lived in Georgia since 1983, retired from his insurance practice to spend his time organizing and spreading his convictions regarding immigration.

Although his website proclaims, “We’re here in what is rapidly becoming Georgiafornia have no connection to American Patrol”—an anti-immigrant website entity operated by Glenn Spencer, in Sherman Oaks, California—King (the primary voice of American Resistance) and American Patrol⁴² are communicatively and ideologically linked. In a letter to Georgia lawmakers posted on the American Patrol’s website, he suggests “several reliable sources of

³⁹ Mary Lou Pickel, “Illegal immigration polarizes Christians - Many ask, what would Jesus do?,” *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, August 10, 2005.

⁴⁰ Donald A. King, “Reporting Illegal Aliens: A Citizen Takes up Arms for His Country,” *VDare.com*, September 26, 2003.

⁴¹ Donald A. King, “A Letter of Thanks from Georgia,” *MichNews.com*, March 23, 2004.

⁴² Website address retrieved on August 8, 2005 at <http://www.americanpatrol.com/>

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information” then lists the websites for the Center for Immigration Studies, NumbersUSA, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, English First, and the American Patrol. The American Resistance is regularly featured on the American Patrol’s website with action alerts and news updates. King refers to their efforts to combat immigration in his writing, and there are several American Resistance articles in the Patrol’s archive. These facts bespeak a connection between the groups. King actively lobbies state legislators on immigrant issues and consistently distributes to state legislators rhetorical information on a regular basis when the Georgia Legislature is in session. King also testifies before legislative committees as a “concerned citizen”.

The American Resistance, a group founded by Donald Arthur King (D.A. King), states that it is a “coalition of immigration crime fighters.” Their focus is on the perceived threat immigrants pose to the U.S. by dint of their sheer numbers: “the present system of trying to save our country from chaos and third-world invasion are not working. It is time for a united, lawful assault of our own.” Their approach relies on the viewpoint that we are a nation divided. King calls for donations from “committed, patriotic Americans to effect the change that must come to reclaim and then keep, our America.” He does not take an official position on legal immigration levels, and most of his rhetoric focuses on illegal

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immigration. As King told CNN's Maria Hinojosa, "I picked the name The American Resistance on purpose. A lot of people tell me it sounds militant. Good; we are trying to resist the takeover of our nation."⁴³

King favors terms such as "Georgiafornia" and "hispandering." These words, his choice of protest events, and his references to Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), a national Latino civil rights organization that works on immigrant rights, and other Latino organizations and public figures are evidence of his particular, virtually singular, interest in Latino immigrants. He does not refer to other immigrant groups, and a reading of his material leaves the impression that immigrants are synonymous with Latinos, and that Latinos in the United States are mostly undocumented immigrants.

Recently at the 2005 Christian Coalition of Georgia Conference, King stated: "I believe it [illegal immigration] is a crisis that cannot be ignored because we will be committing national suicide. Let me say something very clearly and very calmly: There is no universal civil right to live in the United States."⁴⁴

He further stated, "I have been to the U.S./Mexican border in Arizona twice in the last year. I have seen thousands, literally thousands, of people with my own

⁴³ CNN Special Report: "Immigrant Nation: Divided Country," (10/17/04).

⁴⁴ Lares, Carlos. "2005 Georgia Christian Coalition Conference: Immigration Reform Panel", Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials and the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund, 3/23/05. Available, www.galeo.org.

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eyes come across our barbed wire border, which is intentionally unsecured. I have seen people from all over the world...from Iraq, from Saudi Arabia, from the Sudan and from Central and South America. I have seen them enter our nation illegally while our Border Patrol is able to apprehend one of eight or ten, if they are permitted to do their job at all.”⁴⁵ His latter statements further the rhetorical link of immigrants and terrorists. As ironic as it may sound, he claims to be able to determine a person's nationality by sight alone. These types of rhetorical statements demonstrate the type of exaggerated claims many anti-immigrant activists will accept as fact, which are, in reality, deleterious myths.

Regarding the Minuteman Project in Arizona, the “vigilante” group that organized to “protect” the border in Arizona in order to draw attention to the U.S. failed immigration policy, Donald Arthur King (D.A. King) proclaimed,

As a nation, we are guaranteed secure border and protection from invasion in our constitution. The Minuteman Project is simply a large group of citizens heeding the plea of the president, made after 9/11, to be vigilant and to form neighborhood watch organizations. Our immigration ‘policies’ are being set by the many who are allowed to violate the law in course of pursuing the illegal taxpayer subsidized labor that is lowering the wage in and dragging down the quality of life in America.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Lares, Carlos. “2005 Georgia Christian Coalition Conference: Immigration Reform Panel”, Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials and the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund, 3/23/05. Available, www.galeo.org.

⁴⁶ EFE, “Minuteman Project calls on Bush to close the Mexican border.” *Atlanta Latino Newspaper*, April 7, 2005.

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Again, King asserts the link of terrorism and 9/11 to support his endorsement of the Minuteman Project in Arizona.

Anti-immigrant rhetoric transfers into the political speeches and remarks of politicians, as occurred at the 2005 Christian Coalition of Georgia Conference, in the case of **State Representative John Lunsford (HD-110, McDonough)**:

Rep. John Lunsford began his speech by telling the audience that he wanted to clarify a few issues for them. He declared that "this country was built by immigrants, but we are not an immigrant nation, we are a nation of law." He claimed that illegal immigration is "stretching our very rule of law and the very foundation of this country." Lunsford sustained that "we are talking about illegal aliens" and insisted in clarifying this by quoting the definition of the term from Webster dictionary for "illegal" and "immigrant" separately. Furthermore, he differentiated "legal" from "illegal" immigrants, claiming that America welcomes the former.

Rep. Lunsford shared with the audience some of the reasons that showed that Georgia currently is in the "top ten states for illegal aliens." He proceeded, "For sick people without health insurance we are ranked 13th in the nation... Our crime rate is the 13th worst in the nation... our incarceration rate is 7th worst in the nation..." and further stated that we should think about why "we are tenth in this area in illegal immigrants and 49th in education," implying none too subtly a link between these rankings.

Rep. Lunsford claimed his interest was to shed light on the issue, which he said had nothing to do with "a particular race." He said "the reality and the facts of life are that we have to close our border, we have to identify who is in our country, who is in our state, because they are taking a rampant toll on your tax payer's wallet to the point that we cannot properly fund and finance the central services that are necessary to our state and to our citizens...we

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represent every legal citizen within this state." Rep. Lunsford further stated that as elected officials they are required to take action on what impacts the citizens of this state. "Illegal aliens are usurping the tax payers' money and we can't properly fund your services that are essential to your lives...we have to take action."

Rep. Lunsford argued, "Illegal aliens are breaking our laws and are destroying the very foundation of our society." In addition he said, "We want you to understand we are a generous nation and a generous state, but there are limits to our generosity." He closed by sharing with the audience his statistics, stating "if I told you that for fifteen hundred dollars you can move to a new country, a country where the water is clean and not contaminated, a country where the air is clean with minimal or no pollution, a country where the wages are ten, twenty times what your current salary is, a country where the medical care is free, a country where you buy a home for nothing down ... a country where you have truth and rights to live peacefully, a country where if you are in minor trouble with the law, they turn you loose ... a country that will even give your children private tutors to learn the language and scholarships to go to college at no cost to you, a country where in addition to all of the above you can send most of your money home to support your entire family better than they ever lived, wouldn't you all move to that country? Welcome. You are all here." ⁴⁷

State Representative Lunsford's remarks are (HD-110, McDonough) highlighted in this report to demonstrate the propensity of anti-immigrant rhetoric and the established pattern of information being perpetuated in the state of Georgia. State Representative Lunsford serves in a leadership position within the Georgia House of Representatives as one of the Speaker's "Hawks," where he

⁴⁷ Lares, Carlos. "2005 Georgia Christian Coalition Conference: Immigration Reform Panel", Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials and the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund, 3/23/05. Available, www.galeo.org.

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may attend any House committee meeting to vote on any legislation in favor of the Speaker's wishes. Many of his claims made at the Christian Coalition of Georgia conference do not have valid associations; however, despite their lack of validity, the claims do fall in line with the rhetorical conclusions drawn by many of the anti-immigrant groups and immigration control groups. State Representative Lunsford was also a co-sponsor of Georgia HR-256, a proposed Georgia constitutional amendment banning public services including all education to undocumented immigrant children; however, prior to the completion of the 2005 Georgia legislative session in March, he removed himself from HR-256.

Methods of Disseminating Rhetoric

Many of the anti-immigrant groups make difficult-to-disprove statements such as "if you think that illegal aliens aren't receiving welfare, think again," and "illegals don't have to worry about not having the right documents to work."⁴⁸ These types of statements do not lead to a productive debate on immigration policy.

The idea that draws the most ire of such groups is arguably that immigrants be the recipients of any government consideration. Georgians for

⁴⁸ Georgians for Immigration Reduction, <http://www.breathingroom.us>



Immigration Reduction (GIR) calls the following items “freebies”: K-12 education, in-state tuition, and the ability to open a bank account using foreign identification. GIR ignores the fact that our tax system is constructed in such a way that no one can avoid paying some form of tax. Local taxes take the form of sales taxes, property taxes (passed on to renters by property owners), luxury taxes, gasoline taxes, and many others. These taxes are used to pay for public schools, the courts and hospitals, and to maintain public infrastructure.

Additionally, many undocumented immigrants, especially those with families, have an added incentive to pay their taxes using taxpayer identification numbers issued by the IRS. Those hoping to become permanent residents of the U.S. are concerned with establishing themselves as contributing members of society, and one way the government has used to establish this in the past has been through proof of giving paid income taxes.

A preferred method of anti-immigrant groups is to tie undocumented immigrants to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. GIR’s page of links, for example, once included an article entitled “What We Really Get From Mexico,” which stated the following regarding immigration and Georgia:

Just as Islamic terrorists make use of the religious, linguistic and cultural “diversity” their own immigrant communities create in this country, so the Mexicans also create their own internal social structures that are almost impossible for police to detect and

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investigate. If 3,000 dead Americans in the World Trade Center, murdered by alien terrorists who entered the country legally are not too many lives to lose, why should the swamping by drugs and murder of northern Georgia, eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina and all the rest of the nation "from Alaska to South Carolina" be too high a price to pay for the glories that "cheap labor" brings us? What is happening in Dalton and its environs merely reminds those Americans who still have not lost all their mental marbles that opening your borders to millions of aliens who share nothing with your own society and people is an invitation to national suicide. If those who forced the gates open won't close them, those who have to live with what comes across will have to close them themselves.^{49, 50}

The link has since been dropped from GIR's list on its website.

Trying to Shape the Future

Georgia's anti-immigration activists have been emboldened by the passage of Proposition 200 in Arizona to draft similar legislation. Despite the likelihood that the courts will overturn some of these types of laws, Georgia's anti-immigrant lobbyists and groups hope to pass comparable legislation.

The introduction of Georgia House Resolution 256 (HR-256) is the culmination of the work of many of the anti-immigrant groups and immigration

⁴⁹ Sam Francis, "What We Really Get from Mexico," *VDare.com*, November 21, 2002.

⁵⁰ Note: Sam Francis (d. 2005) was also editor of the Council of Conservative Citizens' *Citizen Informer*. GIR was linking to a major leader of an organization widely considered to be a hate group.

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control groups mentioned. HR-256 was proposed by State Representatives Roger Williams (HD-4, R-Dalton), Bobby Franklin (HD-43, R-Marietta), Ronald Forster (HD-3, R-Ringgold), Martin Scott (HD-2, R-Rossville), John Lunsford (HD-110, R-McDonough), Jeanette Jamieson (HD-28, D-Toccoa), John Meadows (HD-5, R-Calhoun), Jeff Lewis (HD-15, R-White), Barry D. Loudermilk (HD-14, R-Cassville), John Wilson Heard (HD-104, R-Lawrenceville), Calvin Hill (HD-21, R-Woodstock) and Tommy Benton (HD-31, R-Jefferson). HR-256 calls for a Georgia Constitutional Amendment to ban all public services to undocumented immigrants, including all publicly funded health care, K-12 education, and access to higher education. HR-256 also calls for the full cooperation of local law enforcement officials in the state to work closely with immigration authorities in enforcement of federal immigration laws.

The ban on K-12 access to education is one distinction from several other measures being introduced this year in several other states. The ban on K-12 access to education is clearly unconstitutional due to the 1982 U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Plyler v. Doe*, which allowed access to K-12 education for all children in the United States of America regardless of their immigrant status. The intent of anti-immigrant groups is, apparently, to seek for review of the *Plyler v. Doe* ruling once again. The review of the 1982 *Plyler v. Doe* ruling has national implications.

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HR-256 is also a manifestation of the anti-immigrant sentiment and a demonstration of the anti-immigrant organization and activity in Georgia. HR-256 proposes state intervention in enforcement of a failed federal immigration policy. HR-256 did not move past its committee in the 2005 Georgia Legislative session; however, it is likely to be an issue for consideration for the 2006 session as it will be a major election year in Georgia with all constitutional officers, including the Governor's race, state legislature, and Congressional races to be decided.

Several local and state organizations have united to form the Coalition for a New Georgia. The purpose of the coalition is to provide and disseminate information regarding laws, policies, and practices that impact Georgia's immigrants. In addition, the coalition will strive to educate the state's business, political, religious, and immigrant communities.

The Coalition for a New Georgia consists of a diverse array of member organizations including: African Human Rights Coalition, Anti-Defamation League, Atlanta Jobs for Justice, Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda, Coordinating Council of Latino Community Leaders in Atlanta, Dialogo Latino Inc., Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO), Georgia Rural Urban Summit (GRUS), Latin American and Caribbean Community Center, League of United

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Latin American Citizens (LULAC) - Atlanta Council, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, People of the Road Coalition, Puerto Ricans for Education, Empowerment and Advocacy (PREEA), St. Julian Catholic Church - Fort Valley, Women Watch Afrika, Inc.

In addition, the Coalition for a New Georgia has initiated a "No on HR-256" Campaign. The following organizations have lent their support for the "No on HR-256" campaign: Association of Colombian Professionals in Atlanta (ACOLPA), Brazil Atlanta, Georgia for Democracy, Georgia Poultry Justice Alliance, Hispanic Concerns Committee of Athens, International Center of Atlanta and Latinos Unidos de Carrollton. As part of the educational efforts in communities across Georgia, the Coalition for a New Georgia will work to conduct Town Hall Meetings across the state to discuss immigration, immigration reform, HR-256, and all of the impact upon our state and nation.

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