

# Immigration Policy Center (IPC)

*...providing factual information about immigration and immigrants in the United States.*

March 27, 2008

## **The Impact of “Quick Fixes” on U.S. Citizens and the Economy**

*Immigration OnPoint: Facts at Your Fingertips for Frequently Asked Immigration Questions*

Congress returns on Monday from its two week recess, and proposals regarding employment verification for all workers – foreign- and U.S.- born alike – are gathering steam. Several bills including the Shuler-Tancredo "SAVE Act" (HR 4088) and the Johnson "New Employee Verification Act of 2008" (HR 5515) include provisions to create a nationwide mandatory electronic employment verification system (EEVS). In the meantime, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published new proposed regulations to turn SSA "no-match" letters – a system SSA uses to correct errors in its database – into an immigration enforcement tool. These proposals are election year antics rather than answers. These policies rely on the government and its databases to be accurate, timely and competent – a stretch in the best of circumstances given what we know about database error rates. Both would have enormous negative consequences for U.S. citizen workers, employers, and the economy. This week, *Immigration OnPoint* highlights two new documents that provide policymakers and advocates with facts that are relevant to the current debate in Congress:

[Rep. Johnson’s New Employee Verification Act: Another Version of the Shuler-Tancredo Bill \(National Immigration Law Center – March 21, 2008\)](#) – Provides a summary of the Johnson EEVS bill (HR5515) and its negative impact on U.S. citizens, employers, and the Social Security Administration.

[Administration Announces New “No-Match” Regulations: DHS Regs Pass Burdens to Social Security Administration, Small Businesses, and Citizens \(Immigration Policy Center – March 2008\)](#) – Provides a summary of the new proposed "no-match" regulations and their harmful impact on workers, employers, and the Social Security Administration.

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*Immigration OnPoint* is a project coordinated by the Immigration Policy Center to create and maintain an online catalogue of short documents and fact sheets that provide quick answers to commonly asked questions about immigrants and immigration. Immigration is a notoriously complex issue area, and the current immigration debate is filled with myths, misinformation, fear, and emotion, making reasoned decision-making difficult. *OnPoint* documents are meant to confront myths and provide factual information about immigrants and immigration policy.

Documents on the *OnPoint* website are meant to be widely distributed to the public, press, policymakers, and others in order to inject factual information into the immigration debate. Many different organizations have contributed their time and expertise to create these documents. *OnPoint* will continue to grow and be updated throughout the year.

OnPoint documents are organized by topic. Check back frequently to see if any new items have been added!

**OnPoint** subject areas include:

**Immigrants and the U.S. Economy** -- What is the impact of immigration on the U.S. economy? This section includes information on immigrants and public benefits usage, tax payments, the U.S. labor market, and more.

**Coming to the U.S. through Legal Channels** -- How does the U.S. immigration system operate? What options are available to immigrants looking to come to the U.S. legally? Are immigrants choosing to remain here illegally? This section seeks to demystify U.S. immigration law and policy.

**Immigrants in our Communities** -- Who are today's immigrants? How do they impact the communities we live in? This section addresses immigrant integration, examines foreign-born crime rates, and a host of other issues.

**Federal, State, and Local Policy Debates** -- What is the federal government doing to address immigration issues? How are state and local governments responding to their specific immigration challenges? This section includes information on legislation being considered in Congress, as well as in state and local legislatures.

**Facts on the Restrictionists** -- This section includes information on restrictionist groups and anti-immigrant activities. It also contains information about discrimination and hate crimes targeting immigrant communities.

**Faith-Based Perspectives** -- How do different faith communities view immigration? How can we respond to immigration debates from a faith-based perspective? This section provides materials and perspectives from the faith community on immigration and related topics.

**Politics and the Immigration Debate** -- How is the immigration debate affecting politics and the elections? This section includes information on the immigrant vote, elections, and the public's view on the immigration debate.

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*IPC is a division of the American Immigration Law Foundation. Visit our website at [www.immigrationpolicy.org](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org).*