



Congressman Dennis Moore
Representing the Third District of Kansas
Douglas, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties

News Release

For Immediate Release
Thursday, April 3, 2008

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MOORE ENDORSES BILL TO PREVENT HIRING OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

*Employment verification system will assist employers and improve
enforcement of current laws*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Congressman Dennis Moore (KS-03) announced on Thursday his support for legislation that will create a new, reliable way for employers to verify the eligibility status of new hires. The New Employee Verification Act, H.R. 5515, overhauls the flawed system of employee verification now in place by replacing the current paper-based and error-prone method of verifying employment eligibility with a superior, user-friendly, electronic employment verification system.

“There’s no doubt that our current immigration system is broken,” said Moore. **“If we are going to truly reform our system, we must begin with enforcement. Strengthening the nation’s broken employment verification system and helping prevent unauthorized employment are key components of any meaningful immigration reform effort.”**

Federal law prohibits the hiring of any individual unauthorized to work in the United States. But the current law has been criticized by employers as unwieldy and enforced by a system riddled with fraud and abuse.

The New Employee Verification Act would introduce a new paperless Electronic Employment Verification System (EEVS), requiring employers to confirm eligibility by entering employee identification data through their state’s “new hire” reporting program – an electronic portal they already use to enhance child support enforcement. The new program would be entirely electronic, eliminating paperwork and streamlining verification processes.

The bill also bolsters enforcement through enhanced employer penalties and by sharing with the Department of Homeland Security information on employers with significant employee name/Social Security number mismatches.

“The New Employee Verification Act has the support of a wide range of U.S. employers that are looking for real solutions to a growing problem,” said Susan R. Meisinger, President and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management. **“We are extremely grateful for the support and vision of Representative Dennis Moore. H.R. 5515 is a bipartisan bill that deserves wide support.”**

H.R. 5515 was introduced by U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson of Texas, a Republican who serves on the House Ways & Means Committee. **“Employers want, need and deserve a reliable employee verification system and I want to give it to them,”** Johnson said.

Tom Woods, Chairman of the Federal Government Affairs Committee for the National Association of Home Builders, praised H.R. 5515 for including reasonable employee verification requirements that business owners can comply with and understand.

“H.R. 5515 provides us with a new mandatory employee verification system that is fair and workable for the employers trying to navigate this new bureaucracy, but at the same time, is tough on employers who knowingly hire illegal workers. I know I speak for my builder colleagues and my association when I say that we appreciate Rep. Moore taking an active role in pursuing policy that is fair, efficient and workable, yet also holds folks accountable for their behavior.”

As an added level of security, the legislation would also create a voluntary Secure Electronic Employment Verification System (SEEVs) that employers may choose to use in the verification process. This system would include a standard background check and the collection of a “biometric” characteristic – such as a thumbprint – to secure an employee’s identity and prevent future fraudulent use of a Social Security number for the purposes of illegal employment.

To ensure privacy and system accuracy, the legislation requires direct consultation with a panel of public/private sector experts in designing the system, and also by requiring annual reporting on system performance by participating federal agencies and the Government Accountability Office.

“This legislation is an important step in our efforts to reform the immigration system in the United States,” Moore said. **“We must hold employers accountable for their hiring practices, but we must first improve the system so that businesses, especially small businesses, are no longer unnecessarily burdened by an outdated verification system.”**

Organizations endorsing H.R. 5515 include, among others, the National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Home Builders, National Franchise Association and the Society for Human Resource Management.