For Immediate Release

Want to Stall, not Stimulate, the Economy?
Expand "E-Verify" in the Stimulus Bill

February 5, 2009

Washington D.C.–Efforts by anti-immigrant groups to persuade Congress to expand the "E-Verify" program as part of the economic stimulus bill would hinder, not help, the U.S. economy's recovery. E-Verify is a voluntary federal program which is deeply flawed and ensnares American job-seekers in database errors, adds to the costs incurred by employers required to use it, and does not actually prevent undocumented immigrants from getting jobs. IPC's analysis shows that any attempt to expand E-Verify overnight would be a costly and chaotic mistake that would neither help the economy nor fix our broken immigration system. With the U.S. economy sinking deeper into recession and the ranks of the unemployed growing with every passing day, now is not the time to delay a rescue package for jobless Americans so that it can be used to score political points in the immigration debate. Yet anti-immigrant groups seem to regard unemployed Americans as little more than collateral damage in their endless war against the foreign-born.

Expanding E-Verify will:

Hurt the Economy
- The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates a full expansion of a mandatory E-Verify program would ***decrease*** federal revenues by $17.3 billion over 10 years.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that an expansion of E-Verify similar to what's proposed on the Stimulus would ***cost*** $10 billion **a year**, with small businesses bearing the brunt.

Cost U.S. Citizens and Legal Workers Their Jobs
- E-Verify relies on an error-ridden database that includes **17.8 million discrepancies**, over **12 million** of which pertain to **native-born U.S. citizens**. Expanding the program means that U.S. citizens would have to ask the government for permission to work and rely on a government database for speed and accuracy. Up to 3 million workers a year would have to navigate a bureaucratic maze to fix their records. One in 25 new hires could receive an erroneous response from E-Verify due to Social Security Administration errors. For instance, the *Arizona Republic* highlighted the case of a restaurant-owner in Phoenix trying to hire his own U.S.-born daughter, only to find that E-Verify mistakenly identified her as not authorized to work in the U.S.

Saddle the Impact of the Stimulus
- Any public or private entity that receives stimulus funding will be saddled with E-Verify requirements, which will impact American businesses, schools, hospitals, and local

- governments. Currently, only 100,000 employers are registered for E-Verify, but up to **7.4 million employers** in the U.S. would potentially have to sign up, be trained, and implement the program. "*Extremely costly and disruptive*" is the Arizona experience with mandatory E-Verify as reported by a typical business in testimony before Congress.

- View the complete fact sheet: How Expanding E-Verify in the Stimulus Bill Would Hurt American Workers

- Read IPC's Blog Post: Unemployed Americans Are Just Collateral Damage in War on Immigrants

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