

Alliance for Limited Government
PO Box 5488
Huntsville, AL 35814

Dear Legislator,

As a spokesperson for Alliance for Limited Government, I wish to express my opposition to the comprehensive immigration bill, especially HB56. There are several reasons for this.

First, is the necessarily required connection with the federal government. As originally created, the federal government had no official connections to or dealings with private citizens. And please remember that it was in fact created, by the states. E-Verify is a federal intrusion upon the duties of individual states. While the federal government has the power and responsibility to make general laws relating to immigration (Section 8, “establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization”), it has no power to make any rulings related to specific citizens.

Secondly, we believe the presence of the invasion of our privacy is at stake. When an employer checks a new employee with the E-Verify system, several things happen. Obviously, the employer finds out whether this is a person who likely has a legal presence in the state. But, in addition, the database will probably also record whose record was checked, when it was checked, by what employer, and where the employer checked from (including address, phone number, etc. as well as other identifying information). After years of collecting such records, the federal government will have a huge informational database of who works where, for how long they have worked there, etc. The possible sinister uses for such a huge amount of information are incomprehensible. Suffice it to say, they would be part of a totalitarian police state.

There is a second aspect, however, to the invasion of our privacy. And that is the invasion of privacy through identity theft. While it may not be necessary for more legislation to prevent ID theft, the government certainly does not need to encourage it! With a greater focus by federal government and the E-Verify system on having a legal identity in order to get a job, imagine the rise in the black market value of such a legal identity. Greater levels of ID theft probably would bring more legislation on the issue, even if unnecessary.

Lastly, we also oppose some of the inherent uses and possible abuses of this system. For example, you must hire a person before you can use the system to verify them. Does this sound similar to “We have to pass it so we can read it.”? Also, you cannot retroactively use the system for someone currently on your payroll. Automatic job tenure? You must give up your computer’s privacy when you log into the E-Verify system. Additionally, the system has no accommodation for either legally or illegally “pay under the table”. These may include day or contract labor, as well as temporary jobs. And paying under the table is something that would undoubtedly become more common under such a system.

For these reasons (and probably more), we ask that you as our state legislators remove the use of E-Verify from the comprehensive immigration bills in the House and Senate, HB 56 and SB 256, respectively.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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