

Date: March 6, 2025

Bill number: [SB 196](#)

Disposition: Proponent

Name: Andrew Good

Organization/Title: [NumbersUSA](#), Director of State Government Relations

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee, thank you for taking up SB 196, and for allowing for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill and facilitate discussion on this critically important topic.

My expertise in immigration policy dates back to 2003, when I became a legislative staffer for Congressman Tom Tancredo, who hailed from your occasionally-well regarded neighboring state of Colorado. I handled immigration for Rep. Tancredo, and was his executive staff director for the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus for a number of years until his retirement in 2009.

Since then, I have worked for NumbersUSA, the nation's largest single-issue advocacy organization on immigration, with [more than six million](#) active members on Facebook alone.

After years of work on immigration policy at both the federal and state levels, one thing I've learned is that - in both arenas - there are just two types of people: those who support credible enforcement of immigration laws, and those who don't.

One thing we've always known about illegal immigration since illegal immigration became an issue, is that cutting off the "jobs magnet" is the single most important policy to deter illegal immigration.

Everyone from [Cesar Chavez](#) to [Ronald Reagan](#) has understood the importance of denying work opportunities. That's why the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) amnesty promised to [stop illegal hiring](#) going forward in return for the amnesty giveaway.

Unfortunately, the federal government did not deliver on their enforcement promise to the public, depositing our trust in dusty file cabinets much like the failed I-9 form we were given to count on. And after granting a pathway to citizenship for roughly 3 million illegal aliens in the 1986 law, [we had an estimated 3 million more in the United States by 1990, around 6 million by 1995, and more than 10 million for most of the 21st century.](#)

Tired of endlessly waiting for enforcement, states started getting involved in the 2000s, and the Supreme Court affirmed their ability to help in various ways, including employment verification, in the [Whiting decision](#).

A large number of states have acted on E-Verify specifically. In fact, [21 states](#) have already mandated E-Verify for at least some segment of employers already. That's in addition to the federal government, who [in 2009 had a regulation](#) go into effect that required all federal contractors and subcontractors to use E-Verify.

Nearly 45 million Americans were run through E-Verify in [Fiscal Year 2023](#) alone. E-Verify significantly outperforms both public and private averages on customer satisfaction, recently scoring an [88 on the American Customer Satisfaction Index \(ASCI\)](#).

Even in past studies, between [94% and 99% of employers](#) reported that the online registration process was easy to complete. Even in past surveys, 98% of employers indicated that E-Verify was either ["somewhat" or "very" user-friendly](#). The system has only continued its steady improvement since. E-Verify is a truly

excellent system, a rare standout that exceeds other government endeavors that we regularly encounter or rely on.

It's worth noting that the tact taken by SB 196 and similar efforts in other states is actually the most gentle and gradual approach that can be enacted and succeed at turning off the jobs magnet for illegal immigration. Requiring verification for new hires and taking a "from now on" posture is the most business-friendly offer possible.

In good faith, those of us who would like to see illegal employment end are foregoing more immediate credible enforcement solutions like the [IMAGE program](#). Business lobbyists should be aware that this is a limited-time offer.

As we speak, there are efforts in other states to make [employers liable](#) for illegal alien employees who injure or kill an American. Much more serious penalties are being proposed than the sensible approach this bill takes.

Make no mistake, voters will support significantly harsher policy... especially if businesses continue to resist common-sense measures like this one. Americans are done with illegal immigration, and the unscrupulous employers that facilitate it. An assertive supermajority wants to see a level playing field for both businesses and workers.

For most of the last 40 years, we have failed to credibly enforce immigration law, but we finally have a unique opportunity to change this story of failure *now*. SB 196 is a step in the right direction. Trust, but E-Verify. I urge your support of the bill.