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*FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.*



September 29, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson  
 2372 Rayburn HOB  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Culberson,

On behalf of the Federation for American Immigration Reform's (FAIR) 500,000 members and supporters nationwide, I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 6198. This commonsense bill would ensure that ineligible, potentially dangerous individuals are not granted citizenship while the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) works to fully digitize its fingerprint records.

As you know, a recent report by the DHS Inspector General (IG) revealed that at least 858 individuals were granted citizenship despite having a final deportation order under another identity. While the report does not reveal the names of the immigrants or the countries of origin, the IG said that they are all from countries that are of concern to the national security of the United States or have high rates of immigration fraud. The report found that this egregious mistake occurred because neither the digital fingerprint repository at DHS nor the repository at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) contains all old fingerprint records of individuals who were previously deported. The IG report further noted that approximately 148,000 fingerprint records of individuals from "special interest countries" who had final deportation orders or who are criminals or fugitives have yet to be digitized.

At the recommendation of the IG, DHS has indicated that it is currently taking steps to digitize its fingerprint records. However, until the digitization of fingerprint records is complete, 148,000 individuals who are supposed to be deported could still be naturalized. In a time of heightened concern over terrorism, the risk posed by this possibility is far too great. In fact, the IG report identified that individuals who were naturalized mistakenly have even gone on to hold jobs in national security positions.

H.R. 6198 would prohibit United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) from naturalizing any individual until the remaining paper-based fingerprint records are uploaded into the DHS digital fingerprint repository known as IDENT. Importantly, the bill would not



prohibit those eligible from applying for naturalization or stop DHS from reviewing applications, even though the actual naturalization will be prevented until the fingerprint database is complete. The bill would also require DHS to refer cases to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for civil proceedings when they have knowledge that an individual was naturalized mistakenly. This provision ensures that any mistakes made by DHS can be swiftly corrected.

FAIR applauds you for introducing H.R. 6198. If this important piece of legislation is considered on the house floor, FAIR will include the vote in our voting report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Stein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Stein  
President