

VIEWPOINT

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Congressman offers statement on Obama's exec actions on immigration

WASHINGTON — Last week, U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (IL-05) released the following statement upon President Obama's speech outlining his Immigration Accountability Executive Actions:

"I applaud President Obama for using his legal authority to improve our broken immigration system and prevent the unnecessary deportation of millions of members of our community. The president's executive actions will prioritize our resources to remove those who pose a public safety threat instead of continuing our cur-

rent ineffective, arbitrary and inhumane deportation policy, needlessly separating families in contradiction to our country's founding principles of fairness and justice.

"Every president since President Eisenhower has lawfully used executive authority to address immigration issues. President Obama's actions are consistent with his predecessors in both parties, who have routinely used their prosecutorial discretion to grant administrative relief to large categories of immigrants. This includes President Reagan's support for individuals fleeing politi-

cal repression in Poland and President George H.W. Bush's expansion of the Family Fairness program that deferred the deportation of over one million people.

"While the president's actions are a crucial step in the right direction, it is important to remember that executive action is not enough, offering only a temporary remedy for a limited number of the undocumented immigrant community. Only Congress can provide the permanent solution necessary to fix our broken immigration system, and I will continue to fight for the bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform supported by an overwhelm-

ing majority of the American people."

Rep. Quigley has been a staunch advocate of comprehensive immigration reform throughout his time in Congress and has pushed Congress to pass a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants.

He was a strong supporter of the DREAM Act, giving everyone born in the United States an opportunity to attend college or serve in the military. Rep. Quigley used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to highlight the need for Congress to protect undocumented immigrants from abuse in detention cen-

ters, reject unconstitutional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers and end a mandated detention bed quota that wastes millions of dollars annually.

Over the summer, he led a letter urging the president to take executive action to enact more human immigration deportation and detention policies. Most recently, Rep. Quigley joined a Congressional Equality Caucus roundtable discussion with undocumented LGBT advocates to emphasize the importance of including the LGBT immigrant community in the president's executive actions on immigration.

Local elder law attorney launches 'Thanksgiving' campaign

With families spread out across the country, Thanksgiving is one of the few times of the year when we are able to gather together.

We eat. We laugh. We share. We even fight.

But what we don't do is talk about how we are going to manage our affairs, as we get older.

One of the biggest stresses anyone will ever go through is the inevitable decline and death of a loved one. How you prepare now will determine how well that stress is mitigated in the future.

So last month, as Thanksgiving approached, Elder Law attorney and professional speaker Ben Neiburger partnered with Lifecare Innovations and Elements, the cremation company, to launch a campaign aimed at getting families to have the tough conversations while they are together, so that future Thanksgivings are filled with fond memories and not bitter regrets.

#Thanksgiving is a campaign to open up the lines of communication within families and across generations.

"I get people contacting me all the time after a sudden debilitating illness or even a death and they have absolutely no idea where to find all the information they need to get started," said Neiburger, whose Elmhurst-based firm, Generation Law, focuses on estate planning and elder law issues. "Often mom or

dad is too ill to help or they've already passed. This is when we need to have everything available in order to manage their affairs properly. And too often nobody knows where to find the important documents.

"Unfortunately we seem hardwired not to want to talk about these issues and it results in not only complex and expensive legal hassles - but incredible stress that short changes the grieving processes and causes unnecessary heartache."

In response, Neiburger, Lifecare Innovations and Elements have created a set of downloadable talking points to get the conversation started while everyone is together. They have created a 13-point checklist online generationlaw.com/family-ready/ to help individuals evaluate how prepared they are for the future.

When both tools are used individuals and families will have a good idea of where they are in the planning process and understand what needs to be done to make sure future Thanksgivings continue to be a joyful time for family.

About Ben Neiburger
Ben Neiburger is an Illinois-based Elder Law attorney and Certified Public Accountant. His latest ebook, *Brighter Skies: How to Navigate the Elder Care Process*, is available now through Smashwords.com. For more information, visit generationlaw.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Agency urges calling senators to oppose FOIA bill

[Last week,] the Illinois House voted to override the Governor's veto on HB 3796. While we're not sure when the bill will be brought before the Senate for a vote (later this week or the first week of December), we're asking you to Call Your Senator TODAY and forward and post this email to your networks.

Tell them you oppose this bill because it severely curbs the ability of the public to monitor government activities.

Below are specific points that you can make when you call:

This bill for "voluminous requests" is confusing and creates more problems than solutions.

Mechanisms currently exist in the FOIA to protect public bodies from "unduly burdensome" requests and "recurrent requesters."

This bill will snare regular FOIA users who ask for routine documents and cause a delay of over a month to receive documents.

There are 7000+ public bodies in Illinois, and not nearly enough media outlets to hold them all accountable. We rely on Illinois residents to monitor local government to keep it in check.

This bill creates the "haves" and a "haves-not" in Illinois with respect to the right to public records because of the fees up to \$100, which can be incurred for asking for routine electronic documents that can easily be attached to an email to send to the requester.

There is no empirical evidence that the public bodies' complaints of "abusive" or "harassing" requesters, and for the anecdotal cases where these requesters exist, the unduly burdensome and recurrent requester provisions in FOIA should suffice and public bodies should avail themselves of those remedies.

Thank you for your civic participation,
Maryam Judar
Executive Director/
Community Lawyer

It's Time for Illinois to quit tobacco for good

The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout in November is about helping people addicted to tobacco make a plan to quit. In some cases, this can be an opportunity to share materials with friends and family or direct them to Illinois' quitline, where they can get help in what we all know is a difficult thing to do.

But we can also help tobacco users quit and prevent kids from ever becoming addicted to these deadly products by encouraging our lawmakers to pass strong tobacco control policies like smoke-free laws, tobacco tax increases and funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Tobacco is the number-one cause of preventable death in Illinois and nationwide. It's time for us to change that. Illinois has made progress recently by increasing its tobacco tax, prohibiting smoking on college campuses and requiring e-cigarettes to be displayed under the same restrictions as cigarettes. But if we don't continue to enact policies to reduce the burden of tobacco in our state, this progress and future successes are at risk.

So for this year's Great American Smokeout, I encourage our lawmakers to make their own plan, a plan to support strong tobacco prevention and control policies to reduce tobacco use, and, therefore, suffering and death from tobacco-related diseases in Illinois.

Terry Hennen
Elmhurst volunteer
American Cancer
Society Cancer Action
Network (ACS CAN)

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