

# Poll Reveals Idahoans Strongly Opposed to Senate Immigration Bill

Crapo, Risch Must Respect the Will of the Voters, Says FAIR

**Kristen Williamson & Ira Mehlman/Fairus.org**

(Washington, D.C.) A statewide poll of likely Idaho voters finds strong opposition to a bill before the U.S. Senate that would grant amnesty to 12 million illegal aliens and dramatically increase overall immigration to the United States. According to the poll, 54 percent of Idaho voters oppose S.744, the Gang of Eight immigration bill — including 36 percent who said they are "strongly opposed." Only 36 percent of voters indicated that they support the bill and only 7 percent said they "strongly support" it.

The poll also indicated that Idahoans disagree strongly with the Gang of Eight's priorities. Under S.744, amnesty for illegal aliens would begin within six months of enactment, while the provisions of the bill promising enhanced immigration enforcement would not have to be implemented for a decade or more. Only 17 percent of Idaho voters favor this approach, while 78 percent stated that border security, employment verification, or deportation of illegal aliens should be the "highest priorities" of an immigration overhaul.

The poll of 500 likely voters was conducted on June 12 and 13 by the national polling firm Pulse Opinion Research on behalf of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). The poll has a margin of error of +/-4.5 percent.

In addition to widespread opposition to the legislation generally, the poll asked Idahoans to register their opinions on specific provisions of bill. The poll found:

- 66% oppose granting legal status to illegal aliens before a border security plan is fully implemented, and 26% of voters oppose granting amnesty under any circumstance.
- 80% oppose the discretionary authority given to DHS to legalize aliens with criminal records or gang affiliations, including 62% who "strongly oppose" those provisions.
- 66% oppose provisions in the bill that would significantly increase overall immigration to the U.S., including 42% who are "strongly opposed."
- 74% oppose the increases in guest workers authorized under the bill, including 47% who said the increases are "much too high."

"The Gang of Eight immigration bill currently being debated in the Senate has almost no support among the people of Idaho, for very good reasons," observed Dan Stein, president of FAIR. "There is virtually nothing in the bill that would benefit Idaho workers or taxpayers.

"It is clear that Idahoans overwhelmingly reject the Senate's plan to grant unconditional amnesty to millions of illegal aliens and flood U.S. labor markets with millions of new foreign workers, while offering the American people worthless promises on border security and immigration enforcement," Stein continued.

"Idaho lawmakers need to understand that their constituents are watching this debate and that they expect their representatives to defend their interests against efforts to undermine their economic security

and the security of the nation. It could not be clearer: Idaho voters strongly oppose almost every provision of S.744," Stein concluded.

The results of the poll of Idaho voters, including the questions asked, can be found at [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org).