

Pennsylvania State Board Meeting – February 20, 2010  
Immigration Report  
Submitted by: Timothy F. Carley

After some research, and discussions with National Immigration Officer Daniel O'Connell, the following are three important issues the AOH is working on, in the line of Immigration:

1) Reform. We need to change the U.S. Ireland immigrations laws to adjust the inequities created by the 1965 immigration reform act. This act removed the quotas for Ireland and the Western European Countries and created the family unification policy which almost eliminated immigration from Ireland.

a. We are supporting an E visa similar to the Australian visa allowing 10,500 immigrants each way annually. This is currently in the draft legislation with adjustments supported by us which requires a High School Degree or Trade certificate rather than a Bachelors Degree.

--- Treaty Trader visas (E-1) and Treaty Investor visas (E-2) are non-immigrant visas for nationals of a country with which the United States maintains a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation who wish to go to the United States for one of two purposes: to carry on substantial trade, principally between the United States and the treaty country (E-1); or to develop and direct the operations of an enterprise in which the national has invested or is in the process of investing a substantial amount of capital (E-2).

2) Former Political Prisoners

a. This group includes Thar Saile, which is a former Irish Republican Prisoner based organization dedicated to working for justice for the men and women who gave so much for the Irish. Individuals such as Malachy McCallister who is a political refugee from Northern Ireland, and in danger of being denied political asylum in the United States. We support a resolution through the state department rather than legislation specific to any individual.

b. The difficult part of the group is former prisoners who have not been in the system as such and are seen as undocumented. Realistically that is what they are. Topic 1 will help create a path for these people as well.

3) Undocumented Irish. This group is an immediate problem that will only be addressed as part of the overall immigration reform. It is clear there will not be a carve out for any group of undocumented (illegal) people. Our current efforts include helping expedite deportation to prevent individuals from sitting in cells waiting for months for the inevitable.

a. It is imperative that the issue of the undocumented Irish in America and all the hardships that go with such status are resolved in a humane manner.