

Until now, many employers have not known what steps to take upon receiving such a mismatch notice. Many mistakenly believe that they must immediately fire the employee. The absence of clear guidance has frustrated employers and, all too often, legal employees end up losing their jobs because of this confusion. The proposed rule outlines clear steps that employers can take in reaction to receiving "no match" letters.

The proposed rule contains a safe harbor for employers. If businesses follow these procedures in good faith, they can be assured they will not be subject to sanctions.

While the vast majority of employers seek to comply with the law, too many employers turn a blind eye to obvious violations of the law. In fact, a small percentage of employers are responsible for a large percentage of "no match" letters. The General Accounting Office reported that between 1985 and the year 2000, only 8,900 employers were responsible for 30 percent of "no match" reports.

Some of the other statistics in the General Accounting Office report are even more troubling. Several employers used one Social Security number for more than 100 different employees—the same Social Security number for more than 100 different employees. One employer used a single Social Security number for 2,580 different wage reports. Mr. President, 8.9 million wage reports had all zeros for the Social Security number. In other words, there was no attempt made whatsoever to come up with the correct and accurate number, so zeros were offered as a Social Security number in 8.9 million wage reports.

Mr. President, 43 different employers used the same Social Security number for more than one employee—for 16 years in a row.

The Department of Homeland Security recently conducted the largest worksite enforcement raid to date against a company known as IFCO Systems, arresting more than 1,000 illegal aliens and charging several managers with criminal violations.

Approximately 53.4 percent of the Social Security numbers for IFCO systems were invalid—half—and Social Security had notified the company more than 13 times regarding these discrepancies before it finally acted.

This regulation will therefore provide guidance to employers who seek to comply with the law and will allow the Government to prosecute those who turn a blind eye. But this action by the Department of Homeland Security is only a Band-Aid for the underlying problem. Employers do not have a reliable method to ascertain whether employees are eligible to work in the United States. A paper-based system such as we have now, where you can use up to 29 different documents, will always be vulnerable to fraud and abuse.

Electronic verification is the way. It has been tested for more than 10 years,

and an independent review of the program, the so-called basic pilot program, found that 96 percent of participating employers believe the electronic verification system is an effective tool for employment verification. The Senate immigration bill improves upon the current paper-based system and requires an expansion of the electronic verification system. But the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff told me personally that he has problems with some of the provisions in the Senate bill and that, as drafted, he considers it unworkable.

In my capacity as chairman of the Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I intend to hold a hearing in the coming weeks on this critical issue of employment verification to make sure we get it right.

Twenty years ago Congress sold Americans a bill of goods. They said if you will accept the amnesty, then we will have workable worksite verifications and sanctions against employers who cheat. Yet today, here we are wrestling with the problem, not of 3 million undocumented workers but 12 million. Obviously, the amnesty without worksite verification and employer sanctions is merely a magnet for future illegal immigration.

I believe Americans are a forgiving people. If someone makes a mistake and repents, asks forgiveness and says; I'll try better next time, they are pretty forgiving. But if we are viewed as merely repeating the same mistakes and attempting to trick the American people into accepting another amnesty without actually trying to solve the problem, the consequences for our society and for our national security and for our economy will be too great.

I will, therefore, continue to work with my colleagues diligently during the conference with the House to develop an employment verification system, along with a temporary worker program, that reduces employer burdens and protects workers' rights, but which will allow us finally, once and for all, to come to grips with our broken immigration system.

#### RECOGNITION FOR LINK PIAZZO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Nevada's true patriots, Lincoln Piazza: a Reno native, veteran, businessman, and philanthropist.

Link Piazza is the son of proud Italian immigrants who came to Reno in the early 1900s. Link was born in Reno on December 11, 1918. His father was committed to realizing the good life in America and passed this motivation on to his children. Link inherited his father's great commitment to honesty, vision, helping friends, and the belief that there is no country like the United States of America.

Link attended Mary S. Doten Elementary School, Northside Junior High School, and Reno High School. During

World War II, he served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew B-25 bombers on 67 combat missions. He is an honored war veteran and a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross for significant war efforts and achievements.

Community involvement has always been a major part of Link Piazza's life. He has spent a significant time giving to others and contributing to his community. He has donated his energy and resources to a number of civic and fraternal organizations and is a well-respected citizen of the community. Link volunteered his services as official scorer and timer for high school zone and State basketball tournaments for 33 years. He was a sports broadcaster for the University of Nevada games from 1945 to 1950 and was co-organizer of the first Reno Little League. He is cofounder of the Reno Junior Ski Program that still continues to benefit local junior skiers.

As a northern Nevada community leader, Link has been a member of many civic and social organizations. He has served on the Reno YMCA Board, the Reno Rodeo Association Executive Committee, Sierra Nevada Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association, National Sporting Goods Association, the Local United Way Chapter Board, the Board for Hidden Valley Properties, the Reno Rodeo Association Executive Committee, and the Reno Rotary Club. Link has been honored by the National Sporting Goods Association—National Sporting Goods Hall of Fame, and the Washoe County School District's Outstanding Graduate Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Link has also played a significant role in his community's development. In 1938, he cofounded the Sportsman Store with his brother. He was also co-developer of the Hidden Valley Country Club and Golf Course properties. He has supported the Reno Rotary Club, construction projects for the Reno High School Alumni Center, the Nevada Humane Society's Regional Animal Shelter, and the Reno YMCA Youth Center.

Link's positive outlook on life serves as motivation for all who meet him. He weathered the Great Depression, fought in World War II, and helped to build and then nurture his community and country. Link is a very successful man when success means helping others and helping others achieve. He works hard and has persevered. Link Piazza is a true American patriot and humanitarian.

#### DISCUSSING TAX CUTS

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, in the wake of yet another contentious debate over the size and scope of the Republican tax cuts, I believe that it is high time that this Chamber engages in a serious discussion about the fiscal condition of our Nation and that Senators make an objective assessment of what the economic policies of the last 5