

Hijacking Immigration? How the Immigration Debate Was Taken Over By Pro-Choice, Environmentalist, Population Control Advocates

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
By Anthony Vargas, J.D.**

In the days leading up to the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the *Human Life Review*, a scholarly journal devoted to pro-life issues, published a powerful and earth shattering article exposing the hidden agendas of America's leading anti-immigration groups and their leaders. While the radical pro-choice, population control, and environmentalist agendas of these groups has been exposed in national publications, such as the *New York Times*, and on internet blogs and social media, the *Human Life Review* article marks the first time that scholarly research journal has exposed the extent of the deception employed by these groups. *Human Life Review* is the first Pro-Life organization to expose the nefarious agendas of the people behind the national anti-immigration movement.

In the article, titled "*Hijacking Immigration?*", author Mario Lopez reveals how the most powerful and well-funded anti-immigration groups in the nation have done just that – hijacked the debate. Lopez traces the history of anti-immigration groups Federation for American Immigration Reform ("FAIR"), NumbersUSA, and the Center for Immigration Studies ("CIS"). By following the history of these groups and the philosophies of their founders, Lopez shows, in the words of *Human Life Review's* editor, Maria McFadden Maffucci, how "good pro-life persons, concerned about illegal immigration, are unknowingly joining forces with those whose basic aims are widely opposed to the sanctity and protection of human life."

Lopez begins the article by examining the history of the modern population control and eugenics movements. Lopez credits the beginning of these movements to societal problems such as poverty and overpopulation in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Out of this movement came Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood. Sanger "viewed population control as a way to prevent the births of people she deemed 'unfit.'" Later, in 1974, an author by the name of Paul Erlich articulated another harm caused by overpopulation – damage to the environment. In his book, *Population Bomb*, Erlich called for "compulsory birth regulation" to prevent overcrowding and depletion of the earth's natural resources.

Taking the ideas and principles advanced by persons such as Sanger and Erlich, an ophthalmologist from Michigan, John Tanton, began his own crusade to preserve the earth's environment through the reduction of the human population. Tanton already had a distinguished history before founding FAIR. Tanton founded and served as the president of Northern Michigan's first Planned Parenthood clinic and served as the national chairman of the Sierra Club's population committee. Tanton's later work led to his conclusion that the native population had reached sub-replacement levels and that the immigrant population was the cause of environmental harms. In 1979 Tanton founded FAIR to advocate for a decrease in immigration as a means of preserving the environment. Presently, a large number of FAIR's

board of directors includes many population-control, pro-abortion, and forced-sterilization advocates. Lopez states “Their statements and membership in other pro-abortion population-control groups reveal their true ideological allegiances.”

In 1985, Tanton created CIS to “build the intellectual basis for immigration law reform.” In order to hide FAIR’s population-control and environmentalist agendas, Tanton attempted to provide distance between FAIR and CIS. In a letter to a donor, Tanton said “[f]or credibility, this [CIS] will need to be independent of FAIR, though the Center for Immigration Studies, as we’re calling it, is starting off as a project of FAIR.”

CIS was not Tanton’s last attempt to provide a front for FAIR. NumbersUSA was founded in 1997 with the generous financial backing of U.S. Inc., the funding source behind FAIR and CIS. According to Lopez, “NumbersUSA’s website features a litany of outlandish environmental claims and pleas for population control. Environmental sustainability is the stated objective of NumbersUSA’s population-control and anti-immigration advocacy.”

However, the most shocking revelation of Lopez’s article is not the truths revealed about the nation’s most established and well-funded anti-immigration groups. The most appalling revelation is the manner in which these groups have been able to infiltrate Congressional, Legislative, and Grass Roots politics and influence those who would otherwise be staunch defenders of life. FAIR, CIS, and NumbersUSA have managed to conceal their true intentions enough to be invited to speak at conferences, briefings, and media events alongside pro-life individuals and leaders.

The Pro-Life movement owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Lopez and to the *Human Life Review* for publishing a truly important article.