

Congressman Steve King made the following statement in favor of a long-term extension of E-Verify, an online system that employers can use to ensure their employees, after hire, are legally authorized to work. E-Verify is free and voluntary, and the E-Verify system is the best way to make certain new hires are legal and have valid Social Security numbers.

An extension of the E-Verify program through September 30, 2009 was included in the massive \$410 billion “omnibus” bill President Obama is expected to sign today. However, last night the Senate, by a 50-47 vote, tabled a motion to extend E-Verify for five years.

“In these tough economic times, no American jobs should go to illegal immigrants,” King said. “E-Verify is a quick and easy system that shuts off the illegal worker jobs magnet and provides employers with a way to verify that their employees are legal to work. Congress needs a long-term extension of E-Verify to give employers the ability to plan for and use E-Verify in the years ahead.”

A 2008 government study of E-Verify revealed that in 96.1 percent of cases, an employee's work authorization was confirmed immediately.

Rep. King is the highest ranking Republican on the House Immigration Subcommittee.