

FRIDAY BRIEF

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Proposed "Nationwide Watch" program comes under criticism

One of the five components of the Citizens Corps created by President Bush in January is recently coming under heavy criticism nationwide, and has lawmakers and citizens alike determined to see it withdrawn from the Homeland Security legislation.

The program, known as Operation TIPS (Terrorism Information and Prevention System) is a national system for reporting suspicious and potentially terrorist-related activity. The program will involve the millions of American workers who, in the daily course of their work, are in a unique position to see potentially unusual or suspicious activity in public places. These workers will use their common sense and knowledge of their work environment to identify suspicious or unusual activity. This program offers a way for these workers to report what they see in public areas and along transportation routes.

The program though, has been met with much resistance in Washington, as House Majority leader Dick Armey and Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia are working to stop its implementation in the proposed Homeland Security legislation. Also, while not calling for the withdrawal of the program entirely, Attorney General John Ashcroft is calling only to put an end to the TIPS central database.

Islamic Institute participates in the Life Forum

On Friday, July, 26th, 2002, the Islamic Institute participated in the Life Forum which was held at the Phoenix Park Hotel in Washington, DC. The forum gathered area pro-life groups, and updated participants on the status of pro-life legislation in Congress, such as the Infant Protection Act and Chabot Bill, that bans partial birth abortions.

At the Life Forum, extensive discussion focused on various issues such as, the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade (the court decision that led to the right of abortion), elections and pro-life, the U.N. Summit on the Child, and a medical presentation on the consequences of abortion. The Islamic Institute has been working with pro-life groups for the past two years in order to present and engage a Muslim perspective on abortion.

For more information regarding the pro-life movement and how American Muslims can become involved, please contact the Islamic Institute at: general@islamicinstitute.org.

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