

## **Ben Johnson Featured in the State Journal Register**

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The AIC's Executive Director, Ben Johnson, was recently featured in an op-ed piece in the Illinois newspaper, the State Journal-Register. The piece focused on what the cost of congressional inaction on immigration reform would be for the state of Illinois. It was based off of a recent fact sheet released by the IPC titled, "[The Cost of Doing Nothing: Dollars, Lives, and Opportunities Lost in the Wait for Immigration Reform.](#)" [1]

In the piece, Johnson writes:

"Immigrants make up 14 percent of Illinois' population, and 20.3 percent of all business owners in Illinois are foreign-born. The state has everything to gain from a smoothly functioning immigration system and much to lose from a system that is not in tune with current economic and social realities.

"Yet, two-and-a-half months after the Senate passed immigration reform legislation (S. 744), the House of Representatives continues to dawdle. Other than giving speeches and mulling over a few backward-looking, enforcement-only bills, the House has done nothing to revamp the broken U.S. immigration system or put forward any vision of what to do with the 11 million unauthorized immigrants now living in the United States — 525,000 of whom call Illinois home."

**Published in the State Journal-Register**

**Source URL:**

<http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/newsroom/clip/ben-johnson-featured-state-journal-register>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/cost-doing-nothing>