

SB 9 is Expensive, Serves No Purpose, and Would Harm Citizens

- **SB 9 would cost the state well over \$19 million.** The Rendell administration estimated this cost in 2008 for checking government-issued ID for all applicants for a huge range of government benefits now processed by mail, phone, or on-line, including Unemployment Compensation, adultBasic health insurance, and the popular property tax and rent rebate program. Since then, costs have only increased as claims for these benefits have risen.
- **Experience shows that proposals like SB 9 cost far more than anticipated.** For example, for every \$100 spent by federal taxpayers to implement new rules requiring Medicaid applicants to submit proof of citizenship, only 14 cents in savings could be documented.
- **SB 9 would harm up to 800,000 U.S. citizens -- Pennsylvanians who lack government-issued ID.** The bill makes most adults under age 65, and some seniors, ineligible for benefits if they cannot produce the proper ID. 11% of U.S. citizens lack government-issued ID, as do 25% of adult African-American citizens.
- **The bill would harm Pennsylvania's economy and budget as families struggle in this tough economy.** Implementing new requirements would be chaotic at a time when the UC system is already overwhelmed with claims and when people rely on it most. New and re-opened UC claims are projected to be 72% higher in 2009 than in 2007. SB 9 is a bad bill at the worst time.
- **SB 9 serves no sound public policy purpose.** The bill's proponents have offered no evidence of undocumented immigrants receiving benefits improperly – not even a single example. Undocumented immigrants are already ineligible for the major public benefits programs in Pennsylvania, and the Department of Public Welfare already verifies identity and immigration status for the benefits it administers. Why harm citizens and waste millions only to score political points?

