

#### Question #4

Should the state of Illinois require financial institutions doing business in Illinois to accept as legal forms of identification tax identification numbers and such documents as consular cards and passports issued by countries of origin?

#### Facts:

- Consular cards or Matricula Consular are issued by consulate offices to demonstrate the bearer is a Mexican national living outside of Mexico.
- Federal Real ID law that takes affect in 2008 will make alternative forms of ID even more important.
- Proof of ID, including drivers license and Social Security numbers are now required by some financial institutions.
- Some other institutions such as Wells Fargo have agreed to accept the consular ID card.
- Some banks are providing access to mortgages with a tax ID number (TIN) which anyone can obtain from the IRS.
- Illinois has a law that permits mortgages at lower rates to undocumneted persons who cannot get traditional loans.
- One local bank that I checked with allows accounts to be opened with a passport.

#### Pros:

1. Income and buying power from immigrants is an untapped source of business for banks.
2. Immigrants won't have use currency exchanges and other check cashing outlets that charge higher fees.
3. It would lessen the chance of earnings being stolen and potential for crimes being committed which can happen when large sums of money are kept at home.

#### Cons:

1. Such laws might be construed as interfering with banks criteria for approving new accounts.