

## **Florida's deportation law merits study by Georgia**

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### **Body**

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**FLORIDA'S** "SEND 'EM BACK" POLICY for illegal aliens doing jail time deserves a thorough look by **Georgia** officials. Not only is it cost-effective, but also absolutely necessary.

Florida is in a fix. Caring for illegal aliens is costing the state more than \$ 880 million a year. A significant part of the tab is the cost of prison for foreign drug felons. Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles has worked with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to **deport** 500 illegal aliens serving time in state prisons for drug-related crimes. It is the first arrangement of its kind. It shouldn't be the last.

**Georgia** has nowhere near the number of illegal aliens in prisons that Florida has. Fewer than 500 are foreign-born and information is not precise on how many of those are here illegally. But sending even a few back makes sense. The cost of a plane ticket for a foreign prisoner and an accompanying guard is sure to be far less than \$ 17,246 annual cost to care for a state prison inmate.

That alone is reason enough, but **Florida's** policy urges the replication by its neighbor. **Deportation** is a dreadful prospect for illegal aliens, especially if they face prison in countries with facilities far less humane than ours. They are bound to move on to other states that do not have the **deportation** rule. **Georgia** is the first place they would come to. We had best have the means to move them on or out.

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