**AILA Advocacy – August 2013**

AILA National has asked the Texas Chapter to focus its attention to the following 5 Texas Representatives:

* **Congressman John Carter – 31st District**
* **Congressman Ted Poe – 2nd District**
* **Congressman Sam Johnson – 3rd District**
* **Congressman Michael McCaul – 10th District**
* **Congresswoman Kay Granger – 12th District**

**Congressman John Carter – 31st District of Texas**

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**Border Security and Immigration**

 Border security and immigration issues have dominated debate in Washington, D.C. and the country alike.  This is one of the most important issues facing Texans right now, and I have been a strong advocate for an “enforcement first” approach.

While I agree that the entire immigration system in our country should be overhauled in the near future, successful immigration policy begins by securing our nation’s border.  I visited the border a few times in the past years, and I can assure you that we have a serious crisis on the Texas border.  Many estimate that up to one thousand illegal immigrants are crossing the U.S./Mexico border every night.  Stopping this tidal wave of illegal immigrants must be our first priority.  While many come to America for opportunity and a better quality of life, others take advantage of our open borders to peddle drugs, weapons and people.  We must know who is entering and exiting our country.

I support the combination of a virtual fence along with an actual fence at points along the border.  In less populated areas, unmanned drones, sensors and surveillance cameras could prove to be effective tools in monitoring the border.  In limited areas an actual fence would help border patrol agents by slowing down the flow of illegal immigrants crossing the border.

Once we gain control of the border, I believe we must implement an accountable and effective non-citizen worker program.  Many of these illegal immigrants perform a role in our economy and, likewise, many businesses count on their participation.  This system should have a high threshold of accountability and require that illegal immigrants be employed if they wish to remain in the United States.  Previous criminal convictions, or convictions while working in the U.S., should stop illegal immigrants from participating in the system.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, which provides funding for Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, I will continue to push for increased funds to ensure that border security and immigration initiatives receive the support they deserve.

I have heard the concerns of constituents throughout the District regarding immigration and border security.  I remain committed to keeping our borders secure and Americans safe.  I have also discussed this issue with members of my Hispanic Advisory Council, and many of them agree we need to fix the crisis on the Texas border.

**Congressman Ted Poe – 2nd District of Texas**

<http://poe.house.gov/index.php>

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| **Border Security/Illegal Immigration**  |

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| Border security and immigration must go hand and hand. Protecting our border will help keep us all safe and will help prevent the drug cartels from preying upon and terrorizing our communities. I regularly travel to the Texas/Mexico border and have seen firsthand the destruction that the drug cartels cause to our communities and the pain they inflict on families. To help protect the border, I introduced H.R. 152, the National Guard Border Enforcement Act last Congress. This bill would require the Secretary of Defense to deploy 10,000 National Guard troops, upon the request of a Border State Governor, to the US border and to keep them there until operational control of the border is achieved.  The time for excuses is over; we need action.   In addition, I’ve introduced the Send Equipment for National Defense (SEND) Act, which would make 10% of eligible returning equipment from Iraq available to federal and state law enforcement agencies for border security purposes. With the drawdown in Iraq, we’ve seen an influx of surplus military equipment returning to the U.S. It’s time to make this already paid-for equipment available to border law enforcement officials, who are too often outmanned, outgunned and out-equipped by the drug cartels.I support immigration – legal immigration – but our immigration system is broken and has been for decades. It’s time for Congress to enact a permanent fix that is both workable and reasonable. The process must be reformed and streamlined. The purposeless visa lottery system should be set aside and visas should be awarded to those who benefit our nation. We have a deep need for high-skilled labor, but while we work to enact a long term plan for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education here at home, we should stop discouraging foreign workers who are American-educated and American-employed from taking what they’ve learned, going back home and competing against us. And, we also must acknowledge the contributions of a legal immigrant workforce.I am against attempts by the Executive Branch to act unilaterally and to avoid enforcing the law. The Constitution does not give the Executive Branch the authority to choose which laws it will enforce and which ones it will ignore.   As Vice-Chairman of the Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee and Chairman of the Immigration Reform Caucus, I will continue to advocate for a responsible, fair and permanent solution to our broken immigration system – one that includes enforcement and reform of our nation’s immigration laws, helps to keep people safe, and helps protect our border. For more information on the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, please visit [here](http://judiciary.house.gov/about/subcommittee.html). For more information on the Immigration Reform Caucus, please visit[here](http://poe.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8920&Itemid=198)**.** To sign up for my e-newsletter, please visit [here](http://poe.congressnewsletter.net/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=profile). |

**Congressman Sam Johnson – 3rd District of Texas**

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Immigration

"If you are here legally, you ought to be rewarded. If you are here illegally, you ought to be deported." Congressman Sam Johnson

Immigration is one of the most serious issues facing Texas, and yet, unfortunately, the extremes on either side of this issue in Congress are using it as a pawn for political gain. Everyday Congress fails to act on immigration, our nation suffers: our porous borders issue a direct invitation to terrorists seeking to take American lives.

I believe being an American is a privilege, not a right.  If you get in line and wait your turn to become a citizen, I say great. I’ve attended American citizenship ceremonies, and they’re some of my most rewarding memories from my time in service. However, I have zero tolerance for those who break the rules and demand special treatment.

I support an "enforcement first" approach. I am strongly opposed to both illegal immigration and a repeat of the 1986 amnesty. Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently supported efforts to tighten border security, enforce and strengthen existing immigration laws, bolster worksite enforcement measures, and require the federal government to cover the costs illegal immigration inflicts on Texas.

Illegal immigration poses a serious threat to national security and exacerbates problems for hospitals, schools, and law enforcement agencies. We are a free nation, governed by the rule of law. We must not send the message to our nation and the world that there are no consequences for breaking our laws. This is America. Actions have consequences.

Please know that I support the follow pieces of pending legislation:

• H.R. 997, the English Language Unity Act, which would designate English as the official language of the U.S. government;

• H.R. 140, the Birthright Citizenship Act of 2011, which would clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth; and

• H.R. 100, the CLEAR Act of 2011, which would allow state and local law enforcement personnel the authority to investigate, apprehend or transfer illegal immigrants in the U.S. to federal custody.

Related Documents:

**News Release** - [Illegal Immigrants Should Not Receive Child Tax Credit Payouts](http://samjohnson.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=306097)

**Press Release** - [House passes Sam Johnson measure to save $7.6 billion in taxpayer dollars](http://samjohnson.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=295037)

**Press Release** - [House Ways and Means Committee passes Johnson’s measure to better protect the American taxpayer](http://samjohnson.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=290855)

**Press Release** - [House Passes 3 Sam Johnson Provisions Johnson’s legislation included in House Republican’s year-end Jobs package](http://samjohnson.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=272494)

**Press Release** - [Sam Johnson wants Agents Ramos and Compean freed](http://samjohnson.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=78941)

[More Documents...](http://samjohnson.house.gov/News/DocumentQuery.aspx?CatagoryID=1933)

Related Files:

[Sam Johnson statement](http://samjohnson.house.gov/UploadedFiles/wandm_tax_credit_remarks.pdf)

[H.R. 5515](http://samjohnson.house.gov/UploadedFiles/NEVA%20-%205515.pdf)

[NEVA One Pager](http://samjohnson.house.gov/UploadedFiles/One%20pager%20final.doc)

[immigration privacy authorization form](http://samjohnson.house.gov/UploadedFiles/USCIS%20Privacy%20Authorization.doc)

[Letter Urging Senator Frist to Reject Amnesty for Illegals](http://samjohnson.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Final%20Immigration%20Letter%20with%20Sigs%20to%20Senate%20Majority%20Leader%20Frist.pdf)

[More Files...](http://samjohnson.house.gov/Files/?CatagoryID=1933)

**Congressman Michael McCaul – 10th District of Texas**

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**Border Security**

As the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, it is my duty to oversee the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ensure that America’s borders are secure.

Over the last several years, Congress has provided billions of dollars to secure the borders, but without an end goal in mind, much of the spending has been done in an ad hoc fashion.  To secure America’s borders, a national strategy and reliable metrics to measure border security effectiveness are essential.

**Border Security Results Act**

During the 113th Congress, I introduced [H.R. 1417](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c113:H.R.1417:), the bipartisan [*Border Security Results Act*](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c113:H.R.1417:), which requires DHS to develop a strategy to gain operational control of the borders and develop verifiable metrics to measure progress. Ten years after the creation of DHS, I believe that both are long overdue. [H.R. 1417](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c113:H.R.1417:) requires the development of metrics to inform border security progress and directs DHS to develop a strategy and implementation plan to gain operational control of the border within two years, setting a standard of 90% effectiveness at apprehending illegal border crossers and interdicting illicit contraband. Achieving this standard must be based on a solid understanding of illegal border crossings and trafficking of contraband.

My bill furthermore requires the Secretary to gain situational awareness through the use of sophisticated technologies and other means, giving our border agents the ability to predict changes in illegal activity. Additionally, DHS must develop a series of verifiable metrics to gauge border security progress.  Lastly, this bill includes a series of verification provisions by outside experts to ensure that Congress is getting an independent assessment of the state of border security.

Rather than continue the resources first approach, this bill’s emphasis on effectiveness and results will ensure DHS is on the path to gain operational control of the border.

**11/15/12 - A Line in the Sand: Confronting Crime, Violence and Terror at the Southwest Border**

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[Download: *A Line in the Sand: Countering Crime, Violence and Terror at the Southwest Border*](http://mccaul.house.gov/uploads/Final%20PDF%20Line%20in%20the%20Sand.pdf)

When the Homeland Security Subcommittee I chaired in 2006 authored the report ***A Line in the Sand: Confronting the Threat at the Southwest Border***, exposing the rise of the Mexican drug cartels, no one could have predicted the enormity of the bloodshed to come.  In 2008, nearly 6,000 people in Mexico were murdered by these cartels.  That’s more than the number of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.



[Download: *A Line in the Sand: Confronting the Threat at the Southwest Border*](http://www.house.gov/sites/members/tx10_mccaul/pdf/Investigaions-Border-Report.pdf)

As I predicted in 2006, we indeed have a war on our southern border.  Cartels are controlling the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S., and weapons and cash into Mexico.  They kill anyone that gets in their way – including police officers and elected officials. It is a multi-billion dollar business.  As the violence increasingly spills onto U.S. soil, it is imperative that we substantially increase the resources of our Border Patrol and Border Sheriffs.

America's borders are also our nation's last line of defense in the War on Terror and they must be secured.  Evidence in our 2006 report that terrorists want to exploit our porous borders to gain entry into the United States still exists today.  It is for that reason alone America must make securing our borders the top priority.  America has a right and, more importantly, a responsibility to determine who enters our nation and for what reasons. While reform of our legal immigration system is needed, I believe we must first secure our borders to stem the flow of illegal traffic before we begin debate on a temporary guest worker program.

We must also work to better enforce our current immigration laws.  We must expedite the deportation of illegal immigrants who commit other crimes in our communities.  I continue to work to improve the relationship between Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and local law enforcement across our district.  Greater resources are needed to provide voluntary training to police and sheriff’s departments so that they can detain illegal immigrants and start the deportation process.

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**Congresswoman Kay Granger – 12th District of Texas**

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Issues: Border Security and Immigration

There has been a lot of debate about our nation’s border and America’s immigration system.

Our northern and southern borders face a number of challenges:  undocumented individuals illegally entering the United States to live and work; transnational criminals trying to smuggle goods; terrorists; and human traffickers – to name a few.

As a life-long Texan and former Member of the Homeland Security Appropriations subcommittee, I understand the importance of securing our border and believe it is our responsibility to ensure the Department of Homeland Security has the resources it needs to protect our border.

Border security is not only critical for homeland security, but it’s also necessary for continued economic growth.

Our North American neighbors – Canada and Mexico – are America’s largest export markets, so it is just as important to make sure our border policies enable the legal transportation of goods as it is that they stop the illegal transportation of products and people.

I know that when our country looks to the south, we tend to focus on Mexico’s security concerns.  But it is important to note that our neighbor is rapidly changing this situation through reforms started by President Felipe Calderon.

Even with Mexico’s increased security efforts, the United States has a lot to do to properly secure our border, and those steps must be taken as part of any immigration reform agreement.

I believe the outcome of the immigration reform debate will have a tremendous impact on the district, Texas and our entire country. Understanding this, it will be important that as Congress tackles this issue we consider all the options.

I am encouraged that Congress has started to look into practical solutions.  Groups in both the House and Senate have been reaching across the aisle and working collaboratively on comprehensive reform packages.  I think this is very important progress.

In the House, the Judiciary Committee has held multiple hearings.  They are taking an incremental approach and have already introduced a handful of proposals in order to reform our broken system.   I’ll be watching this issue very closely as it evolves.