

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We are writing to express our strong concerns regarding the U.S. government's failure to arm federal law enforcement agents working abroad, and to express our deep disappointment with President Obama's announcement last week in support of Mexican President Calderon's policy prohibiting U.S. agents working in Mexico from being armed. After two U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents were attacked last month in Mexico, we are urging the State Department to work with foreign governments to permit our agents to carry the necessary tools for self-protection and the safe execution of their law enforcement duties.

As you know, on February 15, 2011, two ICE Special Agents were driving unarmed in a government vehicle when they were savagely ambushed by Mexican cartel members who fired 83 rounds at them. Special Agent Jaime Zapata was murdered and Special Agent Victor Avila was seriously injured. These agents had no way to defend themselves, as they were not permitted to carry weapons.

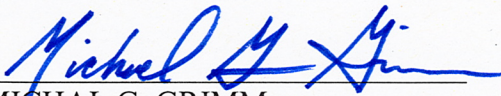
It has also come to our attention that these cartels are specifically targeting American agents. If this is the case, it is completely unacceptable that we continue to send them to Mexico without protection. We cannot continue to put U.S. agents in harm's way, while denying them the tools to protect themselves. If they are going to put their lives on the line at the request of the U.S. government, they should be afforded the same protective measures they have when serving on American soil.

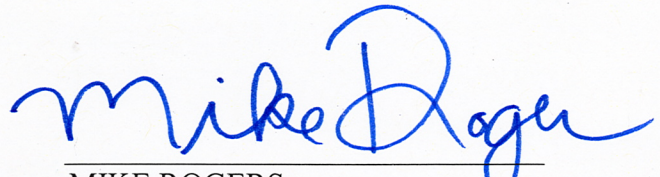
After the death of one ICE Special Agent and with evidence that American agents have become a target for Mexican cartels, why are we still sending them to Mexico unarmed? Furthermore, why has the U.S. Embassy in Mexico failed to take all actions necessary to secure gun permits for them?

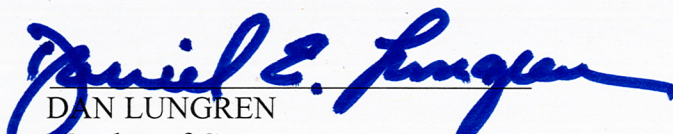
We respectfully urge the U.S. government to reconsider its position and to work with the Mexican government, and with the governments of other dangerous nations, to ensure that our agents receive the permits necessary to carry weapons. In the meantime, we would like to know what actions are being taken to ensure the safety of the unarmed

agents working in Mexico and in other nations abroad. Thank you for your close attention to this matter, and we look forward to your prompt reply.

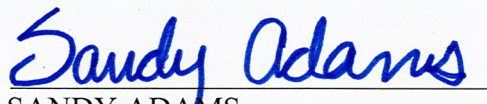
Sincerely,


MICHAL G. GRIMM
Member of Congress

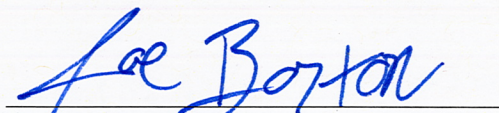

MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress

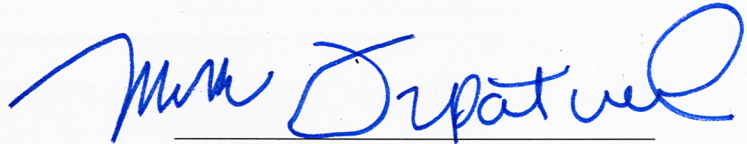

DAN LUNGREN
Member of Congress


CANDICE S. MILLER
Member of Congress

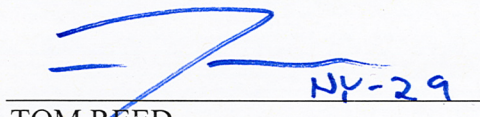

SANDY ADAMS
Member of Congress


TED POE
Member of Congress

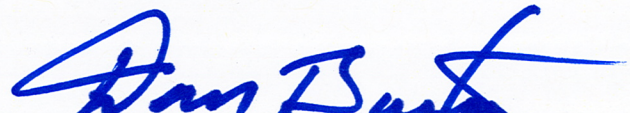

JOE BARTON
Member of Congress


MIKE FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress


ROSCOE BARTLETT
Member of Congress

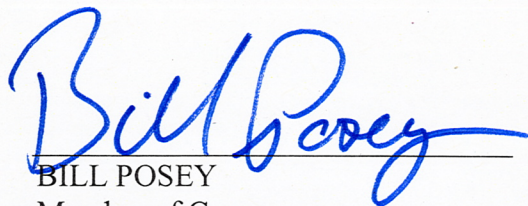

TOM REED
Member of Congress


STEVEN LATOURETTE
Member of Congress

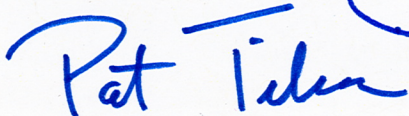

DAN BURTON
Member of Congress



BRIAN BILBRAY
Member of Congress



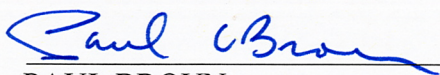
BILL POSEY
Member of Congress



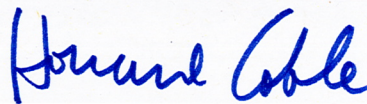
PATRICK TIBERI
Member of Congress



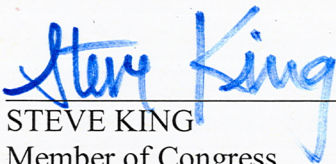
TRENT FRANKS
Member of Congress



PAUL BROUN
Member of Congress



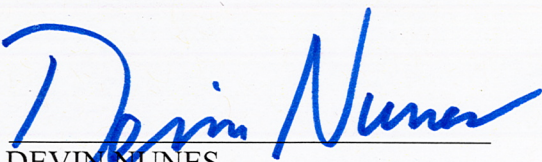
HOWARD COBLE
Member of Congress



STEVE KING
Member of Congress



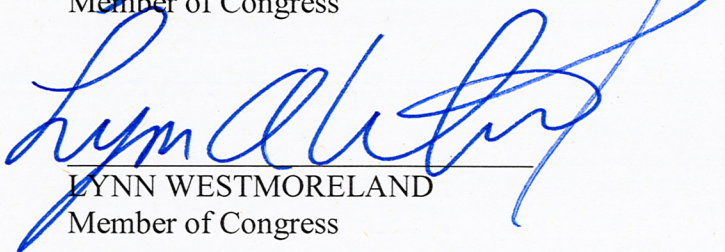
THADDEUS MCCOTTER
Member of Congress



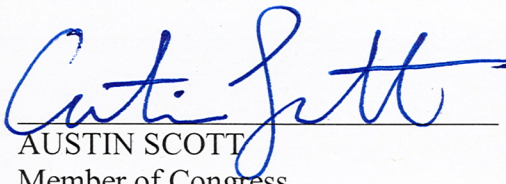
DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress



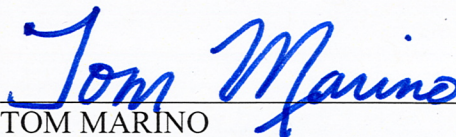
LYNN WESTMORELAND
Member of Congress



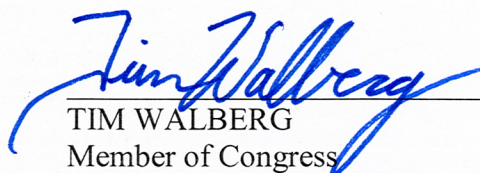
AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress

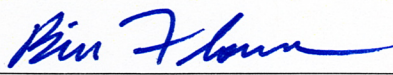


TODD YOUNG
Member of Congress

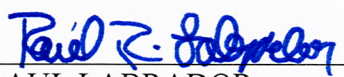


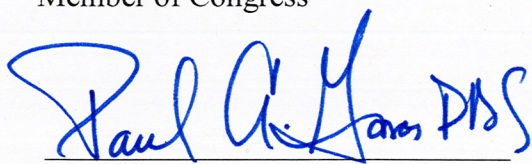
TOM MARINO
Member of Congress

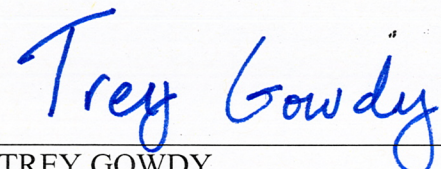

TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress

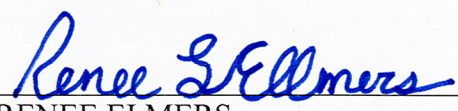

BILL FLORES
Member of Congress

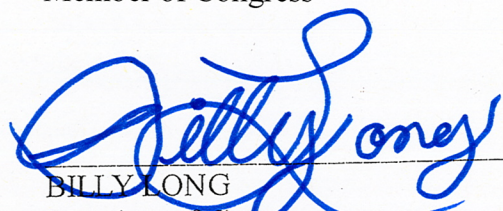

FRANCISCO CANSECO
Member of Congress


RAUL LABRADOR
Member of Congress


PAUL GOSAR
Member of Congress


TREY GOWDY
Member of Congress


RENEE ELMERS
Member of Congress


BILLY LONG
Member of Congress