

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Secure Communities continues to expand, we write because we have been deeply troubled by the implementation of the program since its inception. We were further concerned when the Department of Homeland Security undermined the ability of states to opt out of the program by unilaterally terminating all Memoranda of Agreement with State Identification Bureaus across the country. Now, the recently released report of the task force established by DHS to review Secure Communities has led us to conclude that the program must immediately be terminated.


The task force report confirms the concerns we have been raising for more than a year. It makes clear that Secure Communities sows mistrust of the police and other uniformed personnel, thereby making our communities less safe. The broad scope of the program means that immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are afraid to cooperate with police officers, because doing so may lead to deportation of themselves or their families. This understandable reticence makes it harder for the police to investigate crimes that happen in our communities.

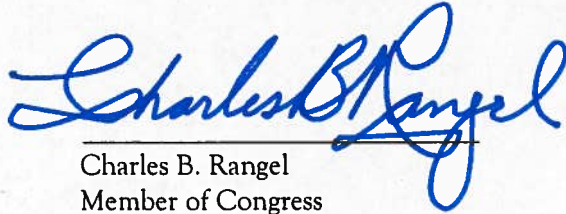
In addition to the impact on law enforcement, this program of wholesale removals hurts our communities by funneling immigrants into an unjust deportation system that fails to offer due process protections. When detained, individuals are not afforded a right to counsel and are often transferred to remote locations for detention, which severely limits their access to resources to help them fight their cases. This patently unfair system needs to be seriously reformed, not expanded through fatally-flawed programs like Secure Communities.

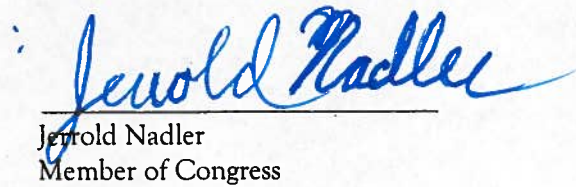
Immigrants are an integral part of the communities we represent. They go to our schools, work in our businesses, pay taxes, serve as the primary breadwinners in their families, and help to give our communities their unique character. Our communities continue to be damaged by this growing collaboration between police and immigration enforcement.

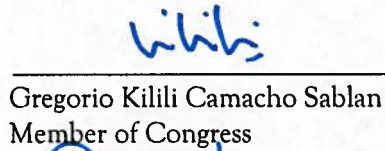
We urge you to immediately stop Secure Communities. We cannot make our communities safer by tearing them apart.

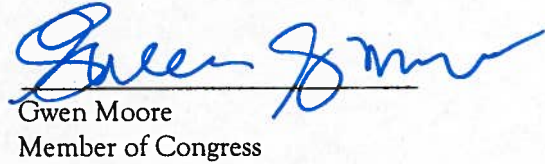
Sincerely,

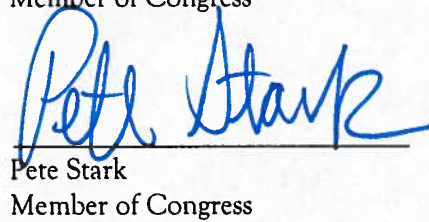
  
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José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

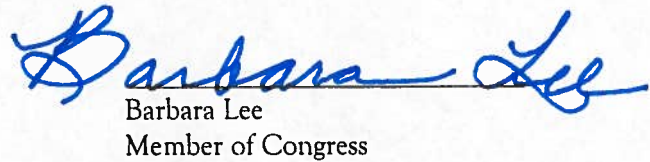
  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

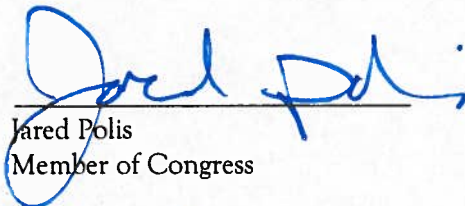
  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

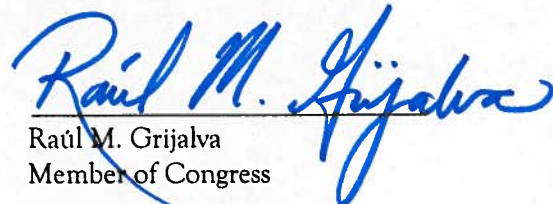
  
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

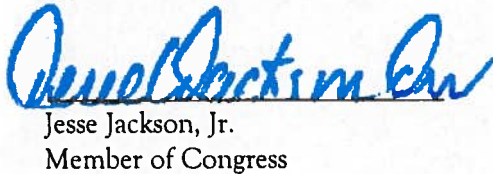
  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

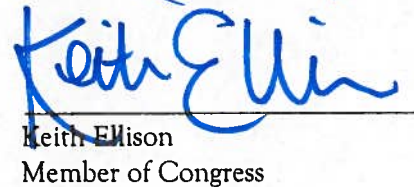
  
Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

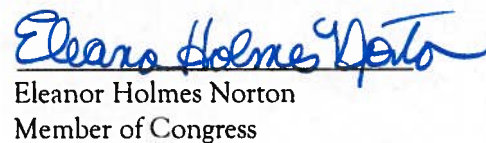
  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

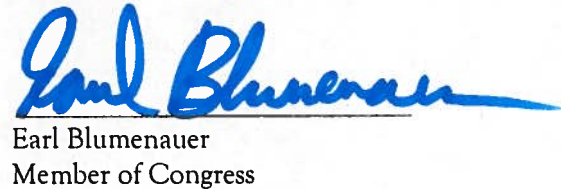
  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

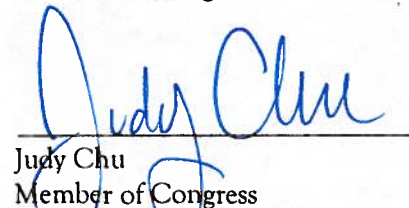
  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

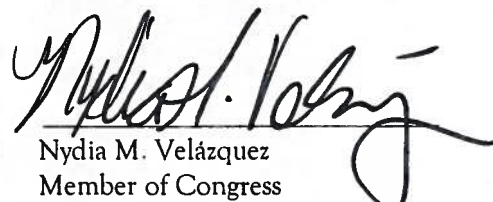
  
Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

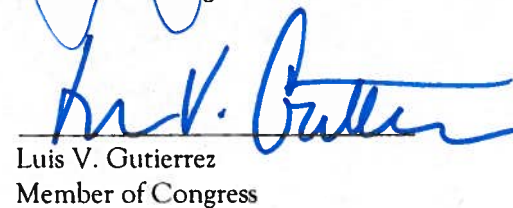
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

  
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

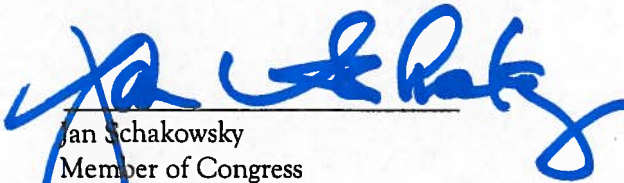
  
Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



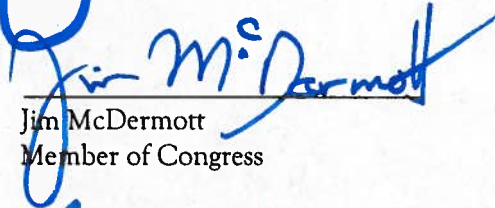
Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



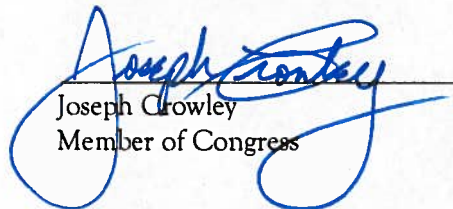
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



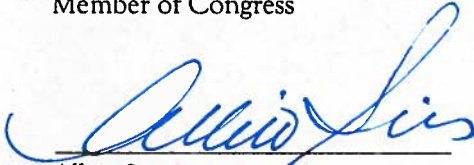
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



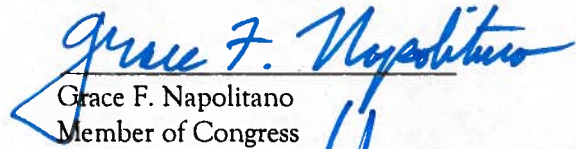
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress




Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



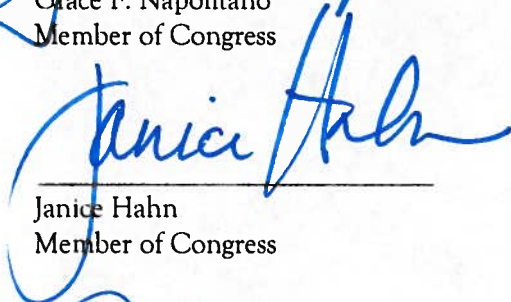
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



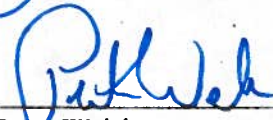
Edolphus "Ed" Towns  
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress