

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Members of the bipartisan Immigration Reform Caucus along with members of the House vehemently oppose your August 18, 2011 announcement to bypass Congress and use prosecutorial discretion to achieve amnesty for individuals who are illegally residing in the U.S. The manner with which your administration has introduced this policy not only robs the public of a thorough vetting, but it also fails to appreciate the negative consequences of this policy shift.

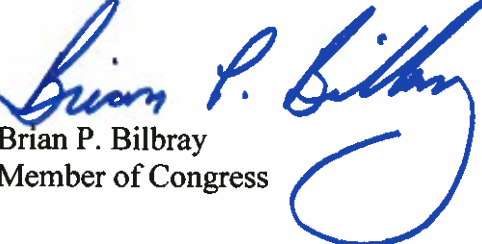
Over the last several years, with the support of the American public, Congress has consistently defeated amnesty proposals for illegal aliens. This recent effort appears to be nothing more than an attempt to avoid public review and unilaterally impose amnesty by picking and choosing which laws to enforce; or in this case, not to enforce, thereby enabling illegal aliens to remain in the country.

In addition, we are convinced the consequences of implementing this policy, will include, but certainly not be limited to, the loss of public confidence and the encouragement of future illegal immigration. Even prior to this, the American public's confidence in the Administration to address illegal immigration was tenuous at best. This is evidenced by the number of states that have initiated and passed their own immigration enforcement laws. This shift in policy confirms the general public's suspicion that the Administration is not serious about controlling illegal immigration.

Also, this policy has the added affect of further encouraging illegal immigration. Frankly put, if we don't take our own laws seriously enough to enforce, why should we expect anyone to follow them? This policy will introduce a new wave of illegal immigrants emboldened with the knowledge that not only is it okay to break the law, but they will likely be rewarded for it with de facto amnesty status; thereby exacerbating an already vicious cycle we as a nation have been trying to address for over two decades.

This attempt to satisfy the narrow interests of the pro-amnesty lobby has ultimately earned the distrust of the greater American public. Our fear is that this policy will irreparably harm the prospects of true immigration reform for many years to come. Mr. President, our request is simple: enforce our immigration laws evenly without passion, prejudice or preference.


Sincerely,



Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress



Ed Royce
Member of Congress



John Culberson
Member of Congress




Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress




Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
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Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



Sue Myrick
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
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Michael McCaul
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David Schweikert
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Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



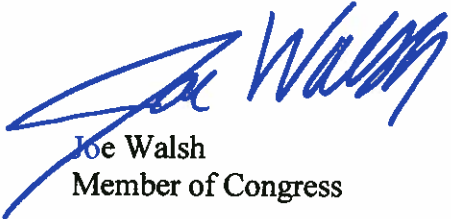
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



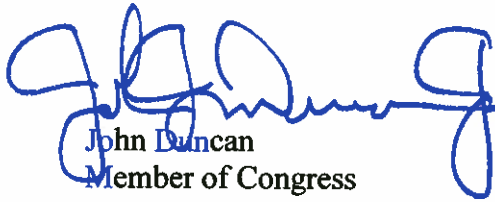
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Joe Walsh
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Allen West
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John Duncan
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Gary Miller
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Doug Lamborn
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John Kline
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Ed Whitfield
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Tim Huelskamp
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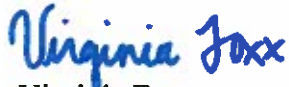
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
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Donald Manzullo
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Virginia Foxx
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Raul Labrador
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Geoff Davis
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Kenny Marchant
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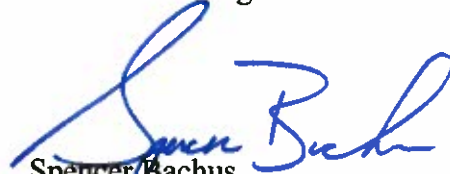
Diane Black
Member of Congress



Andy Harris
Member of Congress



Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



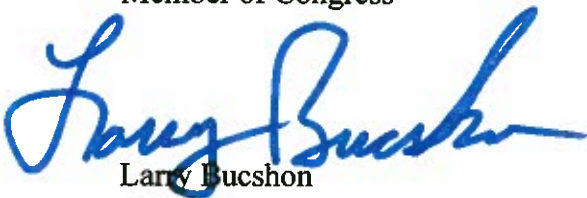
Spencer Bachus
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Ken Calvert
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Mike Kelly
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Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



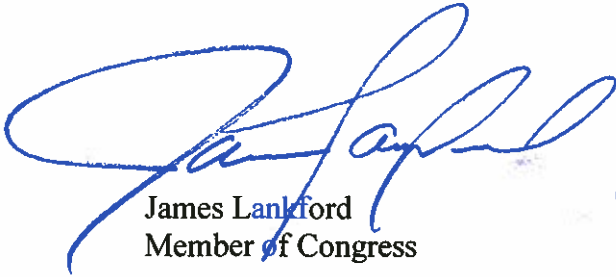
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



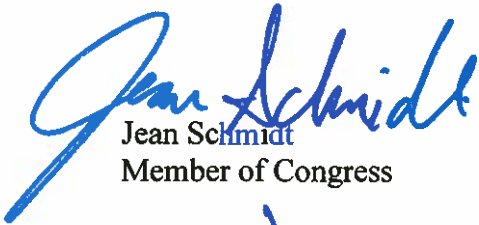
Sandy Adams
Member of Congress



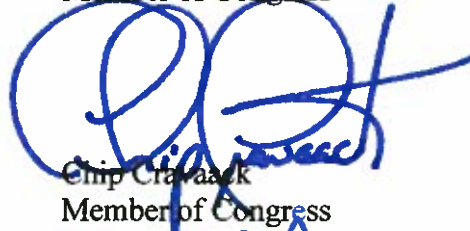
James Lankford
Member of Congress



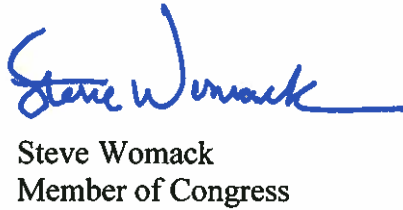
Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



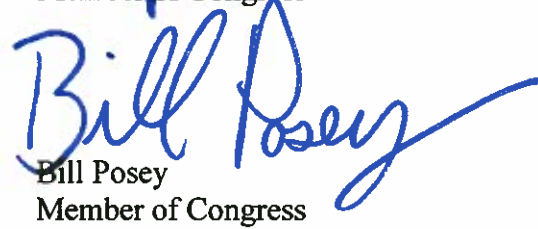
Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress



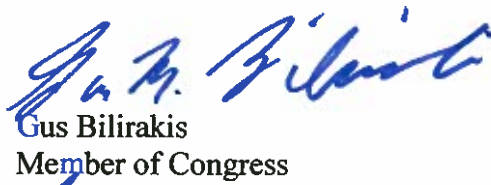
Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



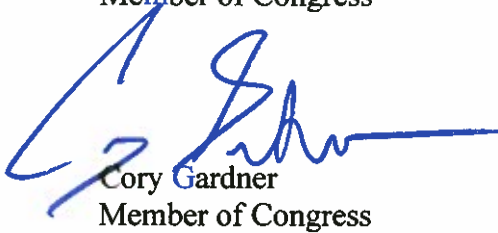
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



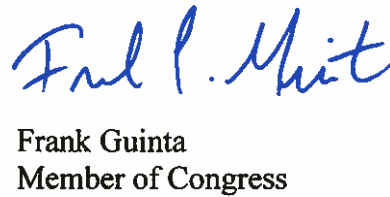
Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
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Cory Gardner
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Frank Guinta
Member of Congress



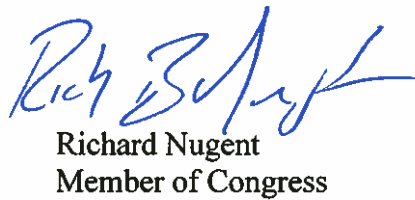
Mike Pompeo
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Ben Quayle
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Jason Chaffetz
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Richard Nugent
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Vern Buchanan
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Blake Farenthold
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J. Randy Forbes
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