

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2011

Cosponsor the Scott Gardner Act

Dear Colleague:

In July 2005, Scott Gardner – a beloved teacher from Gastonia, North Carolina, was killed by Ramiro Gallegos, an illegal immigrant who was driving while impaired (DWI). Despite having five prior charges of DWI, Gallegos was still in the US. Because of law enforcement's failure to deport Gallegos, Scott Gardner was killed for simply driving to the beach on a family vacation.

Sadly, similar tragedies have occurred across the country. In August 2010, Carlos Martinelly-Montano, an illegal immigrant with several prior DWI charges, struck and killed a nun in Virginia while driving under the influence. North Carolina resident Leanna Newman and her unborn child were killed in a wreck caused by an illegal immigrant who admitted to drinking before getting behind the wheel. In California, Sara Cole was paralyzed when she was hit by an illegal immigrant who was driving drunk and had previous convictions for DWI.

These are only a few of the tragedies that have affected communities across the country. Congress must act to protect our constituents' safety. We have reintroduced legislation that will close loopholes allowing illegal immigrants to remain in our country after being convicted of DWI. The Scott Gardner Act strengthens our immigration laws and preserves our safety. The Act will:

- Instruct the Department of Homeland Security to prioritize the deportation of an illegal immigrant who is convicted of DWI
- Give local law enforcement the authority to issue a federal detainer to keep an illegal alien arrested for DWI in custody until he is convicted or transferred to a federal facility
- Require state and local law enforcement to enroll in the 287(g) program or the Secure Communities Initiative via DHS in order to receive funding for the State Criminal Assistance Program (SCAAP)
- Insist that no state or local law enforcement agency may be refused from entering a 287(g) agreement with DHS, and requires DHS to pay for the training costs for state and local agencies

If you have any questions about this bill, or if you would like to become a cosponsor, please contact Taylor Stanford in Rep. Myrick's office at x5-1976 or Taylor.Stanford@mail.house.gov; or Stratton Kirton in Rep. McIntyre's office at x5-2713 or Stratton.Kirton@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Sue Myrick
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress