

Provide State and Local Governments Resources Needed to Combat Costs of Illegal Immigration

Become an Original Cosponsor The CLEAR Act of 2009

May 12, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The Federal government's inability to secure our southern and northern borders creates tremendous stress on state and local governments. When the Federal government's immigration policies fail, local communities are inadvertently tasked with the cost of providing health benefits, educating, and ultimately incarcerating illegal aliens. It is therefore critical for the federal government to ensure communities are adequately compensated for the costs associated with the federal government's immigration policy shortfalls. That compensation is directed by the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which reimburses state and local governments for the cost of incarcerating illegal immigrants.

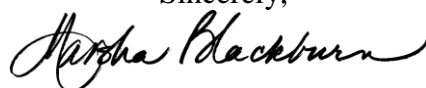
Unfortunately, the Administration's proposed budget eliminates \$400 million in SCAAP funds for the upcoming fiscal year. **This week I plan to reintroduce the CLEAR Act of 2009, legislation that would restore and increase SCAAP funding for communities adversely impacted by criminal aliens.**

The legislation increases SCAAP funds for communities that work with, and not against federal immigration enforcement efforts, and recognizes the important role local governments play in protecting citizens from violent criminal aliens. In addition, the legislation provides the following enhancements to promote sound enforcement of immigration law:

- Recognition of local law enforcement authority to help enforce immigration law;
- Improved information sharing with the federal government;
- Requirements for the Federal government to expeditiously remove criminal aliens;
- Increased federal resources for local governments that choose to enforce the law; and

The **CLEAR Act of 2009** will ensure that local governments are not saddled with an unfunded mandate by the Federal government when it refuses to enforce the law. Please join me introducing this critical legislation, and secure SCAAP funds for communities impacted by criminal alien violence. For more information please contact me directly, or staff may contact Greg Louer in my office (5-2811).

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress