



NEWS RELEASE

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CLEAR Act Pointed to as Solution to Criminal Alien Crisis at House Hearing

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Representative Charlie Norwood (GA-09) participated today at a House Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims hearing to consider the CLEAR Act (H.R. 2671) – a bipartisan bill to address America’s criminal alien crisis.

“The good news is that in just 12 weeks, the CLEAR Act has picked up over 100 cosponsors and received a House hearing to debate its merits... the bad news is that as we walk out of this hearing room, 80,000 criminal aliens are still unaccounted for and living within our borders – and the broken immigration system that put them back out on the street continues. We’ve made progress in 12 weeks, but we have an awfully long way to go,” commented Norwood. “I again commend and thank Chairman Hostettler for recognizing the need for this afternoon’s hearing and an open discussion of how we can best fix this problem and give some much needed help to the 2,000 out-manned federal agents enforcing our nation’s immigration laws in the field.”

Formally introduced on July 9, 2003, the CLEAR Act is a bipartisan bill that addresses the growing U.S. criminal alien crisis by making clear that America’s over 600,000 local and state law enforcement officers have the authority to enforce our nation’s immigration laws, and providing them with the training, access to data and funding to do so. Since it’s introduction, the bill has been endorsed by national law enforcement organizations including the National Sheriffs’ Association, the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, and Friends of Immigration Law Enforcement.

“When business-as-usual for our failed immigration system means releasing 80,000 criminal aliens with rap sheets to roam throughout our country – it’s time for business to change,” added Norwood. “Our government and this Congress needs to get serious about addressing the criminal alien crisis in America. It’s time to stand with our nation’s men and women wearing the badge who are faced with arresting and re-arresting the same criminal aliens – it’s time to pass the CLEAR Act.”

The CLEAR Act is currently cosponsored by 102 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

For additional information regarding the CLEAR Act, please contact Duke Hipp at (202) 225-4101.