

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2012

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

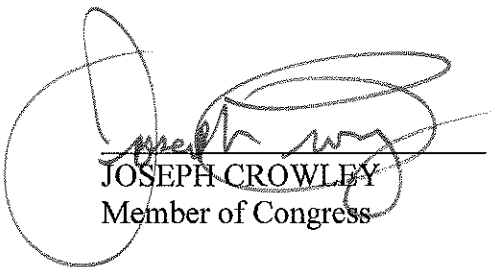
A recent media report has highlighted a disturbing trend on the Internet – the creation of anti-immigrant, vigilante websites. For example, the website “IllegalAlienReport.com” encourages users to post personal, identifying details of anyone they believe to be an undocumented immigrant, including a person’s name, address and background. IllegalAlienReport.com and similar websites are reprehensible, and pose a danger not only to personal privacy, but also to public safety. We urge you to investigate the legality of these sites and what actions can be taken by your agency and others to reduce potential harm.

We are concerned that these sites are inflammatory and are likely to lead to violence. Users are encouraged to post specific locations of the individuals they suspect to be undocumented, which are then displayed on a map. This specific targeting, coupled with the rhetoric surrounding these sites (including a section titled “Have You Ever Been Victimized By An Illegal Alien”), is likely to inspire vigilantes to track down posted people at their home or place of business. The danger of crimes resulting from these sites is far too great.


Further, we are concerned about the privacy implications of these unsubstantiated reports. Discussions of a person’s ethnicity, legal status, and other personal information coupled with their home or work address is a serious invasion of privacy, and we ask you to investigate if any laws are being broken by the solicitation or the sharing of this information.

Our country is a country of immigrants – of every color and creed – and the unsuspecting faces posted on this website and others like it reflect the faces of every one of us. Instead of coming together to share unsubstantiated gossip, we would like to see people coming together to share common sense solutions to the problems of our current immigration system. We ask you to join us in stopping these sites from taking our country down a dangerous, and possibly deadly, path.

Sincerely,




JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress




JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



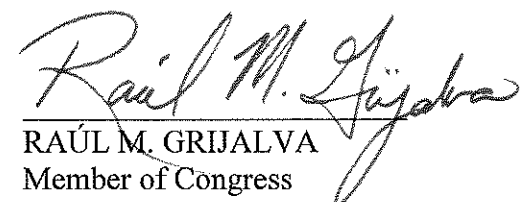
EMANUEL CLEAVER
Member of Congress



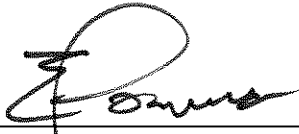
KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress



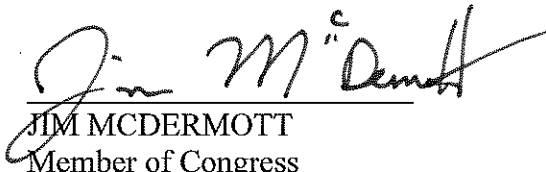
SILVESTRE REYES
Member of Congress



SAM FARR
Member of Congress



JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
Member of Congress



JIM MCDERMOTT
Member of Congress



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



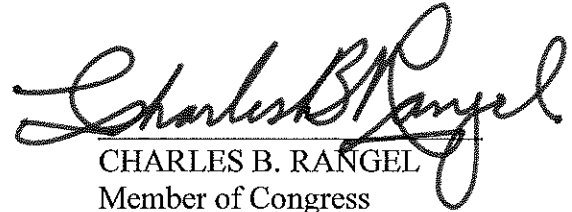
GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



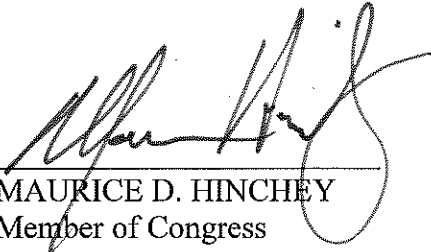
JOE BACA
Member of Congress



DENNIS J. KUCINICH
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



MAURICE D. HINCHEY
Member of Congress



FORTNEY PETE STARK
Member of Congress