

MATT SALMON  
5TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

2349 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2635  
(202) 226-4386 (FAX)

207 NORTH GILBERT ROAD  
SUITE 209  
GILBERT, AZ 85234  
(480) 699-8239  
(480) 699-4730 (FAX)

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0305

[www.house.gov/salmon](http://www.house.gov/salmon)

November 7, 2014

COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
  
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE  
  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Nebraska Avenue Complex  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

The government's ability to protect our citizens begins with our ability and willingness to secure our nation's borders. Of course, a complete approach to this mission must include the diligent enforcement of our existing immigration laws.

With this in mind, it has come to my attention that we are faced with a very serious flaw in our current immigration enforcement system. Recently, this flaw was highlighted by the tragic loss of two California sheriff's deputies who were killed in the line of duty by an illegal alien with an extensive criminal history. Shockingly, this lengthy criminal history includes at least four arrests for various offenses in Maricopa County, Arizona.

As you know, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is one of the very few local law enforcement agencies that work closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in an effort to ensure the proper handling of individuals who insist on ignoring the laws that govern our communities. Currently, MCSO's protocols require its deputies to turn over illegal aliens who have been arrested for a crime to ICE for proper processing and deportation.

Curiously, many of these criminals who have been arrested and turned over to ICE continue to make their way back into our communities. In fact, since the beginning of 2014, 35.4 percent of those individuals previously turned over to ICE have been arrested again on charges that include kidnapping, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, armed robbery, sexual abuse, and child molestation. Obviously, this is a staggering statistic that reveals a serious and dangerous failure in the way we are handling these individuals.

In light of these recent events, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

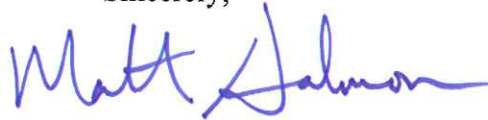
- Is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) concerned about the alarmingly high number of criminal aliens returning to our streets and threatening our citizens and our law enforcement officers?
- Does the DHS track the number of criminal aliens who have been arrested and whether they are repeat offenders? If they do not track these criminals, why not? If these

criminals are tracked, what policies have been developed to address the recidivism rate and their easy access to U.S communities?

- What percentage of Level I offenders are being deported back to their country of origin?
- Have the policies pertaining to the deportation of criminal aliens been modified in any way within the last year? If so, how?
- The American Civil Liberties Union recently sent letters to local law enforcement agencies urging them to end compliance with immigration detainer requests. What is the DHS doing to reassure local law enforcement officials that they will not be sued for following the law?

I believe we must act now to make the necessary improvements to our current system to ensure that violent criminals do not continue to make their way back into our communities. Going forward, I hope that you will work with Congress to address this issue and I look forward to your timely response on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Salmon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Salmon