

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2010

The Honorable John Morton
Assistant Secretary, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Assistant Secretary Morton:

We would like to thank you for the response to our letter on October 13, 2010, regarding the Secure Communities initiative and its swift implementation in the state of Georgia. We understand that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intends to fully activate all localities in Georgia by Fiscal Year 2013, but we believe that this process should be pursued sooner and more efficiently than it has currently been.


As noted in the response dated November 17, 2010 from the Office of Congressional Relations, there are currently only 8 out of the 159 counties in our state that are actively enrolled in the Secure Communities initiative. However, according to your own 2009 estimates in the Department of Homeland Security, Georgia ranks 6th in the total population of illegal immigrants nationwide. Furthermore, according to the non-partisan Pew Hispanic Center, the 2009 estimate of illegal immigrants in Georgia amounted to 425,000, representing 4.3% of our overall population and 6.5% of our workforce.

It was also noted in the response that when considering where and when to deploy Secure Communities activations, operational capacity must be considered. Specifically, the response stated that, "Each ICE field office must be able to respond to identifications from IDENT/IAFIS (the Federal Bureau of Investigation's and Department of Homeland Security's interoperability of their respective fingerprint databases) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week."

Our question to you now is simple. Why would you utilize such valuable and seemingly scarce resources to fully activate Secure Communities in such states as Hawaii and West Virginia, whose total illegal immigrant populations are estimated at 35,000 and less than 10,000, respectively, before Georgia? It seems as if ICE is not responsibly combating the ever-mounting problem of illegal immigration in this nation in order to best utilize the resources it has been granted by Congress.

Therefore, the undersigned Members of the Georgia Delegation respectfully invite you to Capitol Hill to discuss the strategy ICE has employed with its Secure Communities initiative to better assist you in counteracting illegal immigration. We know that you fully understand the issue at hand and would like to better assist you in implementing this initiative more swiftly and more efficiently. We look forward to your response regarding a time and date for when we can meet together and discuss Secure Communities in Georgia and throughout the nation.

Sincerely,


Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress

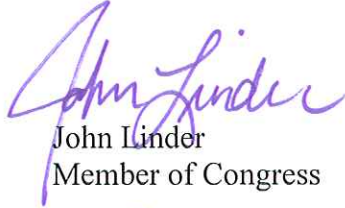

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