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EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

Let's End "Catch and Release"
Stop President Obama From "Playing Russian Roulette With Public Safety"

Dear Colleague:

Nearly two weeks ago, a disgusting and senseless tragedy occurred in my district as a result of this Administration's current policy of "catch and release." In the early morning hours of January 22, 2015, an illegal immigrant with a criminal record and a history of violence, entered a convenience store and dumped a jar full of change on the counter and demanded a pack of cigarettes. Suddenly, this individual shouted "You're not gonna take my money!" and pointed a gun at the young, 21 year old store clerk.

As the clerk carefully handed the gunman the pack of cigarettes, he was shot to death where he stood. Adding further insult, the gunman stepped over the body of the young clerk and stole two more packs of cigarettes, before jumping into a car and leading local police on a dangerous, 25 mile chase through densely populated areas.

Unfortunately, this tragic story is not an isolated incident. Just a few months ago, I highlighted yet another incident where two California deputy sheriffs were shot and killed by an illegal immigrant who had been incarcerated four times in Maricopa County (my home county) jails, and deported twice by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Shockingly, these violent individuals do not roam our streets due to our lack of knowledge about them. In fact, they do so in spite of it. In a recent statement by ICE, the agency acknowledged that Maricopa County Superior Court had notified the agency about this individual's status and criminal history, but that he had been released pending the outcome of his case in immigration court.

Furthermore, as of October 2014, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reported that 35.4% of illegal immigrants arrested within the county and given detainers, or holds by ICE, are repeat offenders. Charges against these illegal immigrants have included kidnapping, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, armed robbery, sexual abuse, and child molestation.

The law is not a joke. I believe there is simply no excuse for ICE to be releasing individuals like this back onto our streets to endanger and kill hardworking Americans.

Having met and spoken with many of our brave men and women in law enforcement, I remain confident in their resolve and ability to do the difficult job of apprehending many of these dangerous individuals. Unfortunately, their bravery and loyalty continues to be betrayed by our broken policies, including that of "catch and release."

I ask that you join me in calling for real reforms to this Administration's interior enforcement strategy and in calling for an end to "catch and release." If you have any questions, please contact Greg Safsten (greg.safsten@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Matt Salmon, MC

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