

SUE MYRICK

9TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES ON:

HEALTH

COMMERCE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
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FINANCIAL SERVICES
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WEBSITE: <http://www.house.gov/myrick>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515
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230 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1976
FAX: (202) 225-3389

DISTRICT OFFICES:

6525 MORRISON BOULEVARD
SUITE 402
CHARLOTTE, NC 28211
(704) 362-1060
FAX: (704) 367-0852

197 WEST MAIN AVENUE
GASTONIA, NC 28052
(704) 861-1976
FAX: (704) 864-2445

The Honorable Jane Harman
Chairwoman
Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Harman,

I have introduced legislation, HR 1355, the Scott Gardner Act, that has been referred to your subcommittee. This bill would – among other things – mandate the deportation of illegal aliens convicted of driving while intoxicated. I recently received alarming statistics from two local law enforcement agencies in my district reinforcing the importance of your subcommittee considering the Scott Gardner Act in a timely manner.

About two years ago, Sheriffs in Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties, North Carolina entered into Memorandums of Understanding with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These agreements allow trained deputies in both counties to utilize 287(g) authority to assist with the identification and processing of criminal illegal aliens who enter county jails. These programs have been successful in identifying thousands of the most dangerous criminal illegal aliens in my district.

I was recently informed that both counties are identifying a substantial number of illegal aliens after being arrested for DWI. Since the 287(g) authority's inception, 892 of the 3997 illegal aliens identified by the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office were arrested for DWI. In Gaston County, 70 of the 388 illegal aliens identified were arrested for DWI.

Though DWI is a leading cause of traffic fatalities in the United States and represents a serious public threat to public well-being, it is often not treated as a deportable offense under US immigration law. Scott Gardner, for whom I named this bill, was a constituent of mine who was killed by an illegal alien who remained in our country despite multiple DWI convictions. If nearly 1000 illegal aliens have been arrested for DWI in just two counties over a two year period, I can only imagine what these numbers look like statewide, much less nationwide.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and hope that you will fully consider the merits of the Scott Gardner Act. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

cc: Representative Dave Reichert, Ranking Member