



County of San Bernardino
Office of the District Attorney
MICHAEL A. RAMOS, District Attorney

January 28, 2013

Speaker John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner and Majority Leader Reid,

With this request, I tepidly put my toe in the water of the complex issues related to immigration reform. As a second generation Latino and law enforcement professional, I have a keen interest in immigration reform legislation that may advance in the 113th Congress.

I write you today as an elected District Attorney in the largest county in the United States, populated with 2 million people spread over 20,000 square miles. San Bernardino County is geographically, demographically, and culturally diverse with a rich agricultural history. As a suburb of Los Angeles we benefit from one of America's great regional melting pots.

My interest in immigration reform stems from my experience as a life-long prosecutor and victims' rights advocate. My testimony as the California District Attorneys Association's delegate to the August 2009 White House Conference on Gang Violence Prevention and Crime Control, documented the systemic problem California law enforcement confronts in addressing the rise in organized gang violence largely driven by drug cartels from Central and South America.

San Bernardino County has the third largest gang population in America, behind Los Angeles and Chicago. These gang members are mobile, violent, regularly transitioning back to their native country. Other parts of the country experience similar gang violence originating from Asia and Eastern Europe. In my experience, criminals come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and nationalities.

The DNA Act of 1994 authorized the FBI to establish, maintain, and manage the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The computer system stores DNA profiles created by federal, state, and local crime laboratories throughout the United States. According to the FBI, since its 1998 operational inception, CODIS has accumulated over 10 million offender profiles, with almost 200,000 DNA hits assisting in 190,000 investigations as of December 2012.

Letter to: Speaker John Boehner / Senator Harry Reid

January 28, 2013

Page Two

I request that Congress include a provision in the immigration legislative package that requires immigrants applying for citizenship to provide a DNA sample as part of the matriculation process. We currently require immigrants to provide fingerprints for an FBI background check before receiving certain benefits. Requiring a DNA sample of applicants for immigration for the purpose of running it against CODIS to identify criminals is a common-sense hedge against criminals entering the U.S. Furthermore, the FBI and Interpol reciprocate DNA profiles upon request giving law enforcement a worldwide tool to protect our communities. CODIS and Interpol data is also used to reunite children with their parents.

Immigration reform's time has come. We have the technology and protocols to keep known criminals from becoming U.S. citizens. I request that we use DNA and CODIS to keep our communities safe.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL A. RAMOS

District Attorney

Past President, California District Attorneys Association*

Board of Directors, National District Attorney's Association, California Representative*

*Titles for identification purposes. This does not represent the position or policy of the California District Attorneys Association or National District Attorneys Association

cc: Via Email:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Barbara Boxer

Attorney General Eric Holder

Rep. Paul Cook

Rep. Gary Miller

Rep. Gloria Negrete McLeod

Rep. Ken Calvert

Rep. Kevin McCarthy