

I voted Yes for H.R. 915, the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act.

ICE agents like Jaime Zapata, who was killed in the line of duty while serving on a BEST team in Mexico in February 2011, put themselves on the front lines of our homeland security defenses. This bill would establish a formal Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) program within Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to promote greater homeland security. The BEST program would improve our border security by coordinating efforts amongst federal, state, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect our borders. Enhanced security will greatly diminish the prevalence of border threats and violence associated with illegal drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and illegal immigration. Our nation faces threats along our borders every day, and the formal establishment of a BEST program will help to provide enhanced protection for our northern and southern borders.

This bill was approved by a vote of 391 – 2.