



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

## PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S 42<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT



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### **Rep. Gary Miller Introduces the Ensuring Justice Along the Southwest Border Act**

*“As our nation is spending more money on border security, we need to make sure the Judiciary has the resources needed to deal with their increased workload.”*

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Gary Miller today introduced legislation, the Ensuring Justice Along the Southwest Border Act, to address chronic judgeship shortages in the Southwest border states’ district courts and to authorize the appointment of Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys to prosecute border-related crimes.

“Over the last several years, stepped up enforcement and prosecution efforts in Southwest border jurisdictions have resulted in a significant increase in the number of drug, immigration, and weapons cases being filed in courts along the border,” said Rep. Gary Miller. “As a result, the district courts in Southwest border states are overwhelmed with immigration cases and are lacking the necessary resources to address their increased workload. In some instances, illegal immigrants found with less than 500 pounds of marijuana are let go because the Judiciary does not have the resources to process these criminals. This is an affront to justice and is simply unacceptable.”

When combined, the district courts along the Southwest border handled nearly 75 percent of criminal immigration cases in the nation’s 94 districts in fiscal year 2009 and almost 40 percent of all the nation’s federal criminal case filings. To address the overwhelming workload experienced by the Southwest district courts, Rep. Gary Miller has introduced the Ensuring Justice Along the Southwest Border Act. This bill contains a two-fold approach to making sure our border security plan is full-circle. First, the bill contains the Judicial Conference of the United States’ recommendations for increased judgeships in the Southwest border states’ district courts. Adding additional judgeships will ensure that important border-related cases are not turned away. Second, the legislation authorizes the Attorney General to appoint Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys to prosecute border-related crimes, such as illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and human smuggling.

“As our nation is spending more money on border security, we need to make sure the Judiciary has the resources needed to deal with their increased workload,” added Rep. Gary Miller. “It would be a shame to spend so much money on border security only to let those who have broken our nation’s immigration and drug laws go free. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.”

**NOTE:** In July 2010, Rep. Gary Miller and several colleagues secured \$10 million for the Southwest district courts in the Fiscal Year 2010 Emergency Border Security Supplemental after [writing](#) to Congressional Appropriators. The funds will be used in the short-term to help the Judiciary keep pace with increased border-security efforts.

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