

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2010

Harry E. Hageman
Executive Director
Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision
PO Box 11910
Lexington, KY 40578

Dear Mr. Hageman,

We write to request your assistance in improving information-sharing and best practices when it comes to managing interstate adult offender transfers.

We understand that the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) and its rules help offenders who have served their sentence in one state avoid recidivism by moving to another state to be near a support system such as family. We also believe that the Interstate Compacts must also ensure that the communities that host and law enforcement officers that supervise adult interstate transfers are supported with the best information and cooperation from sending states.

As you know, last November, four police officers in Washington State were murdered by an offender, who was an interstate compact transfer, while doing paperwork at a neighborhood coffee shop.

The shocking incident required leaders in law enforcement and government to review what happened and identify what policies must be in place to prevent recurrences from devastating other communities. Our state has investigated our own policies and procedures to see if anything was missed and where we can improve.

At the federal level, we feel that a review is needed of certain Interstate Compacts rules and improvements should be made to information-sharing practices between states. Therefore, we have introduced two bipartisan complementary federal bills in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to make sure that we take lessons learned from the Lakewood tragedy to ensure that the existing interstate compact rules are as strong as possible, as well as to enhance the adoption of low-cost information-sharing protocols, giving law enforcement tools to keep communities safe, and officers safe.

The first piece of legislation asks the U.S. Department of Justice to study whether the existing agreements between states adequately protect the communities that host these offenders. Changes to existing interstate compact rules may be necessary to better protect the public in states that receive offenders from other states. We believe that states receiving offenders from other states should be able to receive a complete criminal and mental history before they agree to supervise someone from another state.

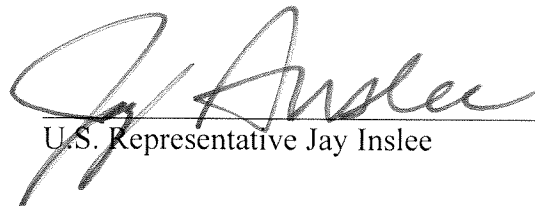
The second piece of legislation, the Department of Justice Global Advisory Committee Authorization Act, seeks to provide local and state law enforcement with better tools to share information, and improve best practices in information-sharing. The bill would create an advisory committee at the U.S. Department of Justice, where, from the ground-up, experts that represent all levels of law enforcement will advise the U.S. Attorney General and develop policy recommendations and technical solutions that will promote information-sharing and interoperability to be modeled by local, State, Tribal and Federal justice communities. This group will also advise the U.S. Attorney General on the best, lowest-cost, information sharing practices and is important for meeting our long-term goals. This group of experts will find solutions necessary to fill information-gaps in the current system in a cost-effective way, thereby improving the administration of justice and increasing public protections.

We hope that you will understand that the greatest disservice we could do to the families of Sergeant Mark Renninger and Officers Tina Griswold, Ronald Owens, and Greg Richards would be to not learn from what has happened. We thank you in advance for your attention to these concerns as you consider protocols in managing interstate adult offender transfers. If there is any way that we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

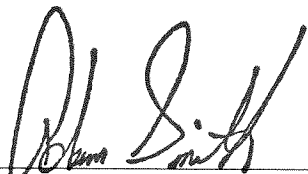
Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Patty Murray



U.S. Representative Jay Inslee



U.S. Representative Adam Smith



U.S. Representative Dave Reichert

Cc: Ken Merz, Chairman
Milt Gilliam, Vice-Chairman
Kevin Kempf, Treasurer