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From the Office of  
**Congressman Tom Tancredo**  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 JANUARY 29, 2003

Contact: Lara Kennedy  
 (202) 225-6270

### Tancredo, Immigration Reform Caucus Introduce Secure I.D. Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO), Chairman of the Immigration Reform Caucus, and several caucus members introduced legislation during a press conference on Capitol Hill today to ensure the security and validity of identification cards accepted by the federal government. Michelle Malkin, national syndicated columnist and author of "Invasion," attended the press conference, as well as Marti Dinerstein, President of Immigration Matters and a Fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies.

"This issue is extremely important for reasons of national security, as well as providing an obstacle to those who are attempting to obtain locally what they could not get from the Congress," said Tancredo. "Specifically, I am referring to efforts by the Mexican government to use their Consular offices in the United States as a distribution point for a card known as the *Matricula Consular*. The Consular officials then go out and lobby state and local governments to accept these cards. Documents like the *Matricula Consular*, which are issued to Mexican nationals by the Mexican government, should not be accepted as proof of identification by state, local or federal agencies."

Michelle Malkin describes cards like the *Matricula Consular* as "insecure documents designed solely to subvert U.S. immigration law. "Its continued acceptance pours fuel on the fire of a still out-of-control fake identity crisis in America," concluded Malkin.

(www.washtimes.com/commentary/malkin.htm)

Rep. Tancredo's secure I.D. legislation would require identification cards that may be used in obtaining federal public benefits/services to meet restrictions that are 1.) secure and 2.) verifiable. Specific provisions of the bill would require federal agencies, including law enforcement services, to obtain the recipients proof of identification document in all cases where the identification document is *not* issued by a federal or state authority and/or verified by a federal law enforcement, intelligence, or homeland security agency.

The Center for Immigration Studies published the first in-depth examination of the *Matricula Consular* and the role it plays in Mexico's attempt to shape U.S. immigration policy (www.cis.org/circle.html). The study, "IDs for Illegals: The 'Matricula Consular' Advances Mexico's Immigration Agenda," by Marti

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Dinerstein, describes the *Matricula Consular* as a "piecemeal approach to securing an amnesty for the 3 to 5 million Mexican illegal aliens in the United States, a strategy adopted in the wake of the new security environment in the U.S. after 9/11." The study notes that Mexico hopes the *Matricula Consular* will be accepted by governments and businesses across the United States, giving illegal aliens legitimate I.D. to present law enforcement and to open bank accounts, among other uses, thus helping bring about a de facto amnesty.

The integrity of the *Matricula Consular* was questioned last week when the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) suspended a pilot program in which a federal building in San Francisco accepted the *Matricula Consular* as valid identification to enter the building to access services. In addition, Rep. Tancredo and 11 House colleagues questioned the spread of the card in a letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell earlier this month and called the lobbying by foreign consulates "a breach of international protocol deserving of a serious response by our government." A copy of the letter is located at the following address:

[www.house.gov/tancredo/newsroom/press/2003/2003\\_01\\_14powell.htm](http://www.house.gov/tancredo/newsroom/press/2003/2003_01_14powell.htm).

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**\*Michelle Malkin** began her career in newspaper journalism more than a decade ago as an editorial writer and columnist for the *Los Angeles Daily News*. She continued at the *Seattle Times* in 1996. Her column, nationally syndicated by Creators Syndicate, appears in about 100 newspapers, including the NY Post, Washington Times, Dallas Morning News, Miami Herald, and Houston Chronicle. She is a FOX News commentator and author of the New York Times best-seller, *Invasion: How America Still Welcomes Terrorists, Criminals, and Other Foreign Menaces to Our Shores*. Malkin was raised in southern New Jersey and is a graduate of Oberlin College. She lives with her husband and daughter in Maryland.

**\*Marti Dinerstein** is President of Immigration Matters, a public policy analysis firm in New York, and is a Fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies. She is the author of two recent Backgrounders: "America's Identity Crisis: Document Fraud is Pervasive and Pernicious: and "Giving Cover to Illegal Aliens: IRS Tax ID Numbers Subvert Immigration Law."

News articles relevant to *Matricula Consular*:

- ***Fox News: Critics Slam Mexican ID Card***
- ***Lawmakers, groups want ban of Mexican IDs***
- ***Washington Times: Mexico's ID card for aliens in U.S. prompts a validity bill***
- ***San Francisco Chronicle: House bill would outlaw accepting foreign IDs***
- ***Rocky Mountain News: Mexican ID cards under fire - Tancredo bill would make them invalid at banks, U.S. agencies***
- ***La Times: Move Opens to Stop Use of Mexican Immigrants' ID Cards; A congressman says the matricula consular help the undocumented. He's offering a measure to bar their acceptance by federal agencies.***
- ***St. Louis Post: Akin, others aim to limit Mexican ID at U.S. offices***

- ***Friends of Immigration Law Enforcement (FILE) information on the Matricula Consular***

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**Congressman Tom Tancredo**  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Tancredo: Pelosi Encourages the Violation of U.S. Immigration Law**

### ***Matricula Consular Now Accepted at San Francisco Federal Building***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – U.S. Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO) is outraged today that U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has endorsed a pilot program allowing a federal building in San Francisco to accept the Matricula Consular (identification cards issued by the Mexican Consulate) as a legitimate form of identification for visitors.

"I know that we are not supposed to be surprised by even the most bizarre behavior emanating out of San Francisco, but we should at least be taken aback when a member of Congress from that area encourages people to violate the laws of this nation," said Tancredo.

According to recent newspaper accounts, Rep. Pelosi supported a plan to make the Phillip Burton Federal Building in San Francisco a much more unsafe facility by allowing illegal aliens entrance to the building after showing an identity card provided by a foreign government. These cards are being distributed by Mexican Consular officials throughout the United States in the hope that cities and states will accept them as proper identification, and that eventually all social services and related privileges, which are usually reserved for citizens, will be afforded to Mexican nationals here illegally. Mexican officials have stated that getting local governments to accept these cards is a way to maneuver around the U.S. Congress, which has so far blocked attempts to pass any amnesty provision for illegal aliens.

"It is extremely disconcerting to see agents of a foreign country actively trying to lobby American elected officials to aid and abet lawbreakers, but it is even more infuriating when cities and members of Congress become co-conspirators," concluded Tancredo.

The Phillip Burton Federal Building in San Francisco is the first of its type in the country to accept Mexican Consulate identification card. The building began accepting the cards today, Wednesday, January 8, 2003, as part of a four-month trial program, which will mainly serve illegal immigrants who are ineligible for U.S. identification.

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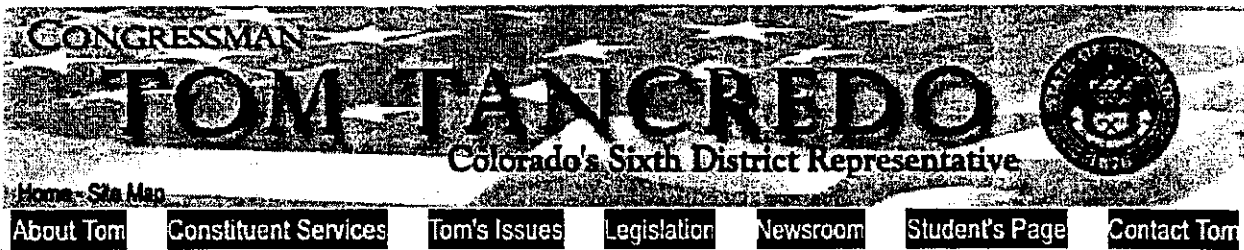
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**Tancredo, House Colleagues Urge Powell to Take Immediate Action Against *Matricula Consular* I.D.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO), Chairman of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus, and several House colleagues urged U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in a letter dated January, 10, 2003 to take immediate action against the Mexican Consular offices' issuance of the *Matricula Consular*. Official co-signers of the letter include Representatives Todd Akin (R-MO), Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Rep. Nathan Deal (R-GA), Rep. John Doolittle (R-CA), Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA), Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX), Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC), Rep. Charlie Norwood (R-GA), Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) and Rep. John Sullivan (R-OK). Original text of the letter follows:

Secretary Colin L. Powell  
 United States Department of State  
 2201 C Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

We wish to bring to your attention a situation we find alarming and one we hope you will take immediate steps to correct.

The governments of Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have increased their efforts to provide identification cards to their nationals living illegally in the United States. Concurrent with this activity, Mexican Consular offices have undertaken a massive lobbying effort to persuade local authorities to accept this documentation for identification purposes.

While all governments have a responsibility to look after their citizens residing abroad, they have no right to actively pursue policies that seek to undermine local laws nor should they use their Consular officials as lobbyists for such an agenda.

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While the issuance of national identification cards is nothing new, providing them with the express purpose of evading the U.S. law is something else entirely. And the active lobbying of local and state governments by Consuls of foreign countries is, at least, a breach of international protocol deserving of a serious response by our government.

Mr. Secretary, this is an issue of enormous significance that has massive implications for the nation. If the Administration has agreed to allow this activity, the American people have a right to know. If it has not, please advise us of the steps being taken to halt it.

Thank you for your ongoing service to our great nation, and thank you for your timely response.

Sincerely,

Tom Tancredo

Member of Congress

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