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Lynn Chapman



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From the Office of
 Congressman Tom Tancredo
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 JANUARY 23, 2003

Contact: Lara Kennedy
 (202) 225-6270

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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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DC Office
1130 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7882

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District Office
6099 South Quebec St., Suite 200
Centennial, CO 80111-4547
(720) 283-9772



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From the Office of
Congressman Tom Tancredo
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 JANUARY 8, 2003

Contact: Lara Kennedy
 (202) 225-7882

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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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Borderland Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Lawmakers, groups want ban of Mexican IDs

Sergio Bustos
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Lawmakers and groups that advocate stricter U.S. immigration policies are drumming up support this week for legislation that would ban acceptance of the identification cards the Mexican government issued last year to its citizens in the United States.

Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., and several other lawmakers have scheduled a news conference for today to introduce a House bill that would prohibit government agencies from accepting the "matricula consular" as valid identification.

The Center for Immigration Studies, which also opposes the matricula, charged at a news conference Tuesday that the Mexican government is using the ID card to legitimize the presence here of an estimated 4 million undocumented Mexican immigrants.

The group commissioned a report written by Marti Dinerstein that criticized the matricula. Dinerstein, a fellow at the center, alleged that the ID card is easy to forge and that the information contained on it wasn't available to U.S. authorities.

"The only people who know anything about the person on the card is the Mexican government," she said. "Can we count on the Mexican government to share information about one of its citizens with U.S. law enforcement officials?"

Officials at the Mexican embassy in Washington did not return calls for comment, but they have lobbied for acceptance of the card as part of the embassy's efforts to help the largest group of undocumented immigrants in the United States.

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