

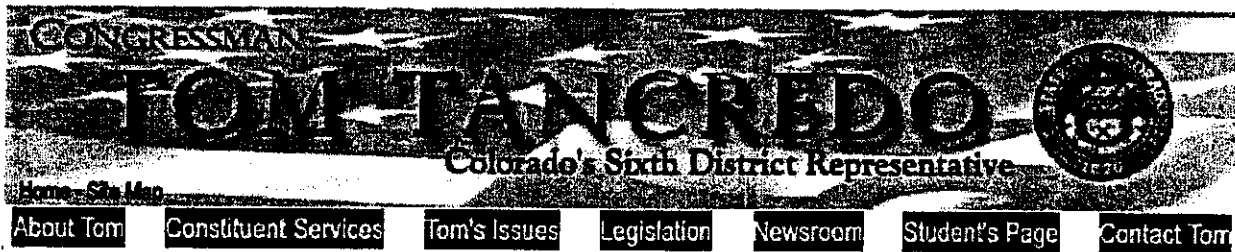
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From the Office of  
**Congressman Tom Tancredo**  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Tancredo, Immigration Reform Caucus Introduce Secure I.D. Legislation

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](http://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](http://www.cis.org/circle.html)). The study, "IDs for Illegals: The 'Matricula Consular' Advances Mexico's Immigration Agenda," by Marti

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SUBMITTED BY: Denise Hansen

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*