

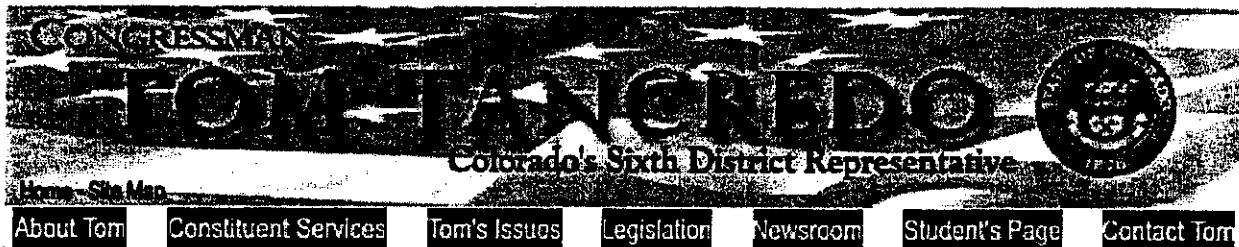
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From the Office of
Congressman Tom Tancredo
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 23, 2003

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Legislation
Newsroom
- Speeches
- Media Clips
- Editorials
- Press Releases
- Events Calendar
- E-Newsletter
- Photo Gallery
Student's Page
Contact Tom
Site Map

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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SUBMITTED BY: Lynn Chapman

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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