



**Office of the Sheriff**  
**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

**BILL BROWN**  
Sheriff - Coroner

**JIM PETERSON**  
Undersheriff

**STATIONS**

**Buellton**  
140 W. Highway 246  
Buellton, CA 93427  
Phone (805) 686-8150

**Carpinteria**  
3775 Carpinteria Avenue  
Carpinteria, CA 93013  
Phone (805) 684-4561

**Isla Vista**  
6504 Trigo Road  
Isla Vista, CA 93117  
Phone (805) 681-4179

**Lompoc**  
3500 Harris Grade Road  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
Phone (805) 737-7737

**New Cuyama**  
70 Newsome Street  
New Cuyama, CA 93254  
Phone (661) 766-2310

**Santa Maria**  
812-A W. Foster Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Phone (805) 934-6150

**Solvang**  
1745 Mission Drive  
Solvang, CA 93463  
Phone (805) 686-5000

**Sheriff - Coroner Office**  
66 S. San Antonio Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone (805) 681-4145

**Main Jail**  
4436 Calle Real  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone (805) 681-4260

**COURT SERVICES  
CIVIL OFFICES**

**Santa Barbara**  
1105 Santa Barbara Street  
P.O. Box 690  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102  
Phone (805) 568-2900

**Santa Maria**  
312 E. Cook Street, "O"  
P.O. Box 5049  
Santa Maria, CA 93456  
Phone (805) 346-7430

**HEADQUARTERS**

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Phone (805) 681-4100 • Fax (805) 681-4322  
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June 11, 2012

*Copy sent by facsimile -- Original letter sent via U.S. mail*

The Honorable Lois Capps  
Rayburn Building #2231  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510  
Facsimile #: (202) 225-5632

**Re: DOJ Decision to Prohibit SCAAP Funding for "Unknown Inmates"**

Dear Congresswoman Capps:

As the Sheriff of Santa Barbara County, and in conjunction with the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), which represents the 58 elected sheriffs of California, I am urging your immediate help in reversing a decision by the Department of Justice (DOJ) that will cripple the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and place a significant financial hardship on Santa Barbara County and the rest of the county jails in the state of California.

You have no doubt heard that the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced a change in the SCAAP program on May 23, 2012, that will prohibit SCAAP funds from being used to reimburse localities for foreign-born criminal aliens housed in their jails that have been classified as "unknown inmates" by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This ill-advised programmatic change would dramatically weaken SCAAP by limiting payment strictly to "known" inmates that are presently in ICE's computer database. It should also be noted that DOJ did not follow established procedures for making changes to SCAAP, thus calling into question the validity of the change. Should this be enacted, California sheriffs would lose millions of dollars for the incarceration costs of criminal aliens due to the federal government's inability to properly apprehend, track, and document these individuals. Based on a 2010 vetting report issued by DOJ, this payment change would have cut over \$18 million in 2010 SCAAP payments to California sheriffs.

In Santa Barbara County alone, we depend on this funding to incarcerate foreign-born criminal aliens. This reduction of funding amounts to a 25% decline in SCAAP funding, or \$191,608. Without this funding, we are placed in a position of incarcerating inmates who are the responsibility of the federal government without the funding necessary to do

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Re: DOJ Decision to Prohibit SCAAP Funding for "Unknown Inmates"  
May 31, 2012  
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so. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office has faced severe budget shortfalls over the past five years that have resulted in the loss of numerous sworn law enforcement and custody deputy positions and services to the residents of Santa Barbara County. We should not have to bear the brunt of this unilateral decision by DOJ to further reduce our budget as a result of this unfunded mandate.

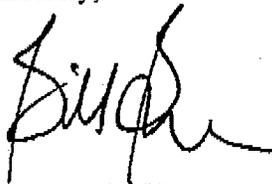
As I'm sure you are aware, the vast majority of illegal aliens residing in the United States are not officially "known" to the federal government. Therefore, this proposal would cripple SCAAP and further shift the financial burden of housing these criminal aliens to our localities.

These "unknown" criminal aliens, many of whom have committed serious and/or violent crimes in our communities, were all born outside of the United States and lack the documentation to show they are here legally. However, because ICE was not aware they had illegally entered the United States, the Department of Justice, without the approval of Congress, has unilaterally implemented a change that will deny California (and every other state) the ability to secure partial reimbursement for incarceration costs by removing the "unknown" payment category.

Under the law that created SCAAP, the federal government is required to take all criminal aliens into federal custody. If that is not possible, which has been the case since the program was created, the law calls for the federal government to compensate state and local governments for their incarceration costs. The federal government must uphold its responsibility to the facilities that hold criminal aliens and not allow changes that would weaken the funding provided for SCAAP.

As Sheriff of Santa Barbara County, and as a member of CSSA, I urge your assistance to reverse this DOJ decision before it is implemented and the FY 2012 applications are finalized. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and for your continued support of law enforcement and the SCAAP program.

Sincerely,



BILL BROWN  
Sheriff - Coroner

c: Carmen Green, CSSA Deputy Executive Director  
Nick Warner, CSSA Legislative Director