

Our homeland faces a number of profound threats. The foremost threat comes from radical jihadists inside our nation who may be plotting to kill Americans. While we have not experienced an attack on the scale of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks since that tragic day, we have seen a terrorist sympathizer at Fort Hood murder thirteen soldiers and like-minded extremists attempt to blow up an airliner over the skies of Detroit and set off a car bomb in Times Square New York. Meanwhile, nearly thirty other terrorist plots have been foiled by law enforcement before they were attempted. The terrorist threat within our nation remains real, and constant vigilance and strong law enforcement are essential to protecting the American people.

Another integral part of protecting our homeland is border security. More than 447,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended in 2010 while attempting to cross our southern border, with hundreds of thousands more uncaught. Among those stopped were convicted criminals and persons on our terrorist watch list. Additionally, the violence and proliferation associated with the drug war in Mexico has spread to our nation. This has resulted in the deaths of an Arizona rancher and a Border Patrol Agent, as well as a growing number of violent Mexican gangs in our communities. In Northern California and other places across our nation, it has also resulted in an explosion in marijuana cultivation by armed Mexican drug cartels. I have championed [legislation](#) that calls on the Office of National Drug Control Policy to establish a comprehensive federal solution to this unacceptable menace. Meanwhile, our northern border is equally porous and experts have expressed alarm that terrorists could exploit our weaknesses there. I will continue to fight to enhance border security through additional security personnel, physical barriers, and electronic monitoring systems that have proven effective to apprehending individuals seeking to illegally cross our borders.

[Click here to read about my latest actions on this issue.](#)

[[go back to "On the Issues" main page](#)]