

# Joint Statement by FHLEOA & FOBP

June 24, 2008

Hon. Kevin Brady, Member of Congress  
301 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Brady,

On behalf of the Boards of Directors of the Federal Hispanic Law Enforcement Officers Association and Friends of the Border Patrol, we are pleased to offer our support of your bill that is currently being introduced in the House of Representatives addressing Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 924(c) (1) clarifying its use against law enforcement officers in the course of their official duties.

As FOBP has worked on the case of U.S. vs. Ignacio Ramos, Jr. and Jose Alonso Compean, two US Border Patrol Agents of the El Paso Sector, Fabens Border Patrol Station, since 2005 when FOBP was first contacted by a relative of one of the agents, we can attest to how Section 924(c) (1) was inappropriately used by the Office of U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton of the Western District of Texas.

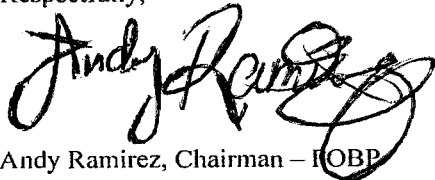
Having attended hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee on July 17, and 31, 2007, and the US 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on December 3rd, we can attest how it was agreed by numerous Members of Congress and the Appellate Court panel that 924(c) was never intended for use against law enforcement officers who carry or possess firearms in the course of pursuing or apprehending a suspect, and that such application was clearly an overreach by the government.

The effect of the application of this law by the Department of Justice has affected the morale of law enforcement officers across America, and in our opinion led to the death of Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar who may have hesitated knowing it was applied to Ramos and Compean, which may well have cost him his life. Agent Aguilar could very well be the first law enforcement KIA casualty of 924 (c).

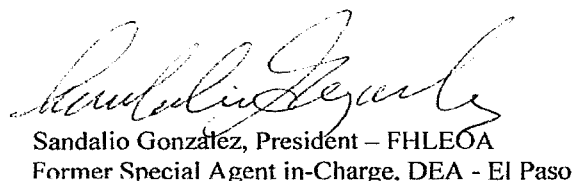
Perhaps in the future Congress can also review, investigate, and conduct thorough oversight hearings into the other prosecutions against law enforcement officers including but not limited to Deputy Sheriff Gilmer Hernandez, Customs Officer Robert Rhodes, Policewoman Stephanie Mohr, Border Patrol Agent Nicholas Corbett, and ICE Agent Cory Voorhis.

On behalf of the FHLEOA and FOBP Boards, we want to thank you again for introducing this important clarification of 924(c) and offer our support during the legislative process.

Respectfully,



Andy Ramirez, Chairman – FOBP



Sandalio González, President – FHLEOA  
Former Special Agent in-Charge, DEA - El Paso