



Congresswoman
VERONICA ESCOBAR
Texas' 16th Congressional District

H.R. 2203, the Homeland Security Improvement Act

Section 1: Short Title

- Homeland Security Improvement Act

Section 2: Stakeholder and Community Engagement

- Establishes a commission within DHS comprised of representatives from northern and southern border states to develop policy recommendations, evaluate policies, and improve agent and officer safety.

Section 3: Establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for Border and Immigration Related Concerns

- Creates an Ombudsman within DHS who is responsible for:
 - o Responding to DHS grievances
 - o Conducting facility inspections
 - o Proposing changes to administrative practices to mitigate problems with CBP, ICE, and UCSIS
 - o Other critical accountability functions within DHS

Section 4: Training and Continuing Education

- Mandates certain training and education for ICE and CBP officers such as community policing practices, lawful use of force and de-escalation tactics, and history and ethics of asylum law

Section 5: Management of Ports of Entry

- Requires the DHS Secretary to perform an assessment of ports of entry to be delivered to Congress containing info on staffing levels and additional need, average delays, and the implementation of body worn cameras.

Section 6: Reporting Requirements

- CBP and ICE will be required to conduct an annual report on staffing needs, impacts on trade/commerce, and an assessment of border security strategy
- Additionally, GAO will create reports on the use of force policies used by CBP and ICE and on the potential implementation of body worn cameras for CBP and ICE agents and officers

Section 7: DHS Accountability and Transparency

- Mandates ICE and CBP to create a record-keeping process for all stops and searches.

Section 8: Limitation on the Separation of Families

- Bans family separations except in very limited circumstances

Section 9: Electronic Tracking

- Requires DHS and HHS Secretaries to create a tracking system interface for separated families

Section 10: Independence of Immigration Judges

- Requires GAO to report on the feasibility of establishing an independent immigration court, the impact such change will have on the case backlog, barriers to its creations, and recommendations for Congress.