



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

January 9, 2025

The Honorable Juan Ciscomani  
United States House of Representatives  
1429 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Congressman Ciscomani:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), representing 3,081 sheriffs and over 20,000 public safety professionals - including deputies, chiefs of police, and other law enforcement officials across the United States – we write to support the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act.

Your bill would give law enforcement one more important tool to address the rampant criminality associated with our national borders. For too long, law enforcement efforts at every level in addressing the crisis at our borders have been undermined by dangerous vehicle pursuits, often with devastating consequences.

This vital legislation, which creates a new federal offense for operating a motor vehicle within 100 miles of the U.S. border while intentionally fleeing a pursuing law enforcement officer, is a necessary step forward. By targeting operators of vehicles rather than passengers, it focuses precisely on the core danger. Additionally, heightened penalties for offenses causing serious bodily injury or death appropriately reflect the severity of these crimes.

By rendering individuals convicted of this offense permanently ineligible for legal status in the United States, the bill sends a clear message that such actions are incompatible with the rule of law. Given the ongoing harm caused by reckless attempts to evade law enforcement at our borders, the National Sheriffs' Association fully supports your efforts.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to public safety and the well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Sheriff Kieran Donahue.

Sheriff Kieran Donahue  
Canyon County, Idaho  
President  
National Sheriffs' Association

A blue ink signature of Jonathan Thompson.

Jonathan Thompson  
Executive Director, CEO  
National Sheriffs' Association