

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2014

Mr. Fernando Benitez
Misión de San Ignacio #10613
Zona Urbana Río Tijuana
Tijuana, Baja California 22030

Dear Mr. Benitez:

We appreciate your advocacy for Andrew Tahmooressi and your commitment to ensuring that his case is addressed quickly. As Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we stand behind Andrew and believe the specific circumstances of this case require Andrew to be returned to the U.S. immediately.

We believe the evidence supports Andrew's claim that he mistakenly entered into Mexico. One of the most compelling pieces of evidence is a 911 call Andrew made at the border checkpoint, where he stated that he was unaware of his location. It is also important to take into account that Andrew was new to the San Diego area, without permanent housing, and had many of his possessions in his car. Like many of those new to the area, he was unfamiliar with the often confusing roads along the border and was unable to turn around before entering Mexico.

Andrew's character and service should also be taken into account. Andrew is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served his country honorably, enduring two combat tours in Afghanistan, and earning a promotion to Sergeant on the battlefield—a high honor for any service member. Further, he saved lives on the battlefield in several instances, showing both courage and commitment to his fellow Marines. Andrew suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of his time in combat and moved to the San Diego area to seek treatment. Regrettably, his incarceration prevents him from getting the treatment that he deserves. The Marine Corps has stood by Andrew, and has pledged its assistance to resolve this case.

Andrew has been incarcerated for 3 months, and we strongly believe the evidence and circumstances demonstrate that justice would best be served by uniting Andrew with his family. As this case moves forward, we stand ready to work with you to bring this case to a successful resolution.

Sincerely,



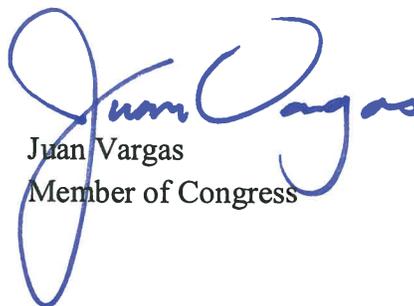
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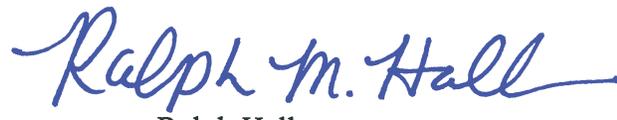

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