



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP APPLAUDS HOUSE PASSAGE OF SECURE FENCE ACT

Congressman Votes for Legislation to Create 700 Miles of Fencing on US-Mexico Border

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop applauded today's passage of the "Secure Fence Act" in the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation, sponsored by Congressman Peter King (R-NY), would authorize the construction of approximately 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Right now, it is too easy for illegal immigrants to enter the United States, so job one must be to secure our border," Bishop said. "This bill is a good first step, but security fencing alone doesn't secure the border. We will also need to hire more Border Patrol agents and add more detention beds in order to end the failed practice of "catch-and-release."

In addition to voting for the legislation, Bishop also supported a motion that would add 12,000 Border Patrol agents, 8,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, and 100,000 detention beds over the next four years. Unfortunately, that motion was defeated along party lines.

In addition to building the fence, the Secure Fence Act would also require the Department of Homeland Security to gain "operational control" of the country's international borders and study how to implement security systems along the U.S.-Canadian border and stop fleeing vehicles at the border. The bill passed the House today by a vote of 283 to 131.

Bishop has consistently supported the construction of security fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border. During consideration of HR 4437, the "Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act" last December, Bishop voted for an amendment to add 700 miles of fencing. Bishop ultimately voted against the final bill, however, because it contained punitive measures, such as criminalizing Catholic Charities workers who provide charity to illegal immigrants. The Senate has declined to consider that bill.

"While I am pleased to vote for this bill, there is no reason we couldn't have passed it years ago," Bishop said. "Hopefully, this is the first step toward a bipartisan and permanent solution to secure our borders while keeping with our country's proud tradition of tolerance and integration."

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