

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**

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**NEWS**

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## **Herger Visits U.S.-Mexico Border**

*"Deeply troubled" by prevalence, threat of illegal immigration*

(CHICO, CA) -- Congressman Herger today commented on his August 25 visit to the U.S.-Mexico border in San Ysidro, CA. During his visit, Herger: (1) toured an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility; (2) visited a formerly concealed tunnel through which illegal immigrants and drugs were smuggled; (3) received briefings from Border Patrol agents regarding ongoing efforts to combat illegal immigration and secure the border; and (4) visited fences aimed at blocking immigrants from crossing our border illegally. Herger's reaction to his visit follows. Picture links and captions are also below.

"My visit to the U.S.-Mexico border was an eye-opener that intensified my belief that illegal immigration is an extremely serious problem in our nation," Herger stated. "I am deeply troubled by an ICE report indicating that many of those we catch at the border are serious law breakers guilty of drug trafficking, gang activity, and other criminal behavior. Many are of non-Mexican ethnicity, demonstrating that it is entirely possible for terrorists abroad to take advantage of our porous borders. As such, our nation's illegal immigration problem is a national security crisis that must be addressed with urgency, vigor, and sufficient resources."

Herger concluded, "I applaud the work of our brave and skilled border patrol agents. But there are only 12,000 agents to monitor a 5,000-mile border. This is simply an impossible task. There is not enough fencing and surveillance to keep unlawful immigrants out. While Congress has already taken steps to put more feet on the ground, reinforce fencing, and improve surveillance technology, I will continue to actively work to promote legislation that would further enhance enforcement and help our nation finally get a firm control over our borders."

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For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!

To view pictures of Congressman Herger's visit to the border, visit the links below.

[www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit1-500.jpg](http://www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit1-500.jpg); -- Herger speaks with the assistant officer in charge of the detention and removal facility at Otay Mesa

[www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit2-500.jpg](http://www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit2-500.jpg); -- Herger tours with an ICE special deputy agent a previously concealed underground tunnel through which illegal immigrants smuggled themselves and narcotics

[www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit3-500.jpg](http://www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit3-500.jpg); -- Herger views the hidden entrance at the end of the tunnel. The tunnel was one-half mile long across the U.S.-Mexico border, ending under a floor in a U.S. building.

[www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit4-500.jpg](http://www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit4-500.jpg); --Herger speaks with a border patrol agent at an Imperial Beach border station

[www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit5-500.jpg](http://www.house.gov/herger/images/CWHBorderVisit5-500.jpg) -- Picture of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection photograph depicting a young child who was concealed inside a gas tank compartment of a mini van as she was smuggled into the U.S.

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