

United States Senate

SENATE CAUCUS ON
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 818-C
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 20, 2011

Senator Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, we write to urge you to work with us to quickly pass legislation to extend recently expired Department of Defense counternarcotics authorities.

As you know, three Defense Department counternarcotics authorities expired at the end of the fiscal year. These are:

1. **Section 1004 authority** which allows for certain types of counternarcotics training, transport of personnel, construction, maintenance of equipment, establishment and operation of training facilities and support for intelligence analysis and communications activities;
2. **Section 1021 authority** which allows the Defense Department to support a unified campaign against narcotics trafficking and activities by designated terrorist organizations in Colombia; and
3. **Section 1022 authority** which allows Defense Department joint task forces to provide support to law enforcement agencies conducting counter-terrorism activities.

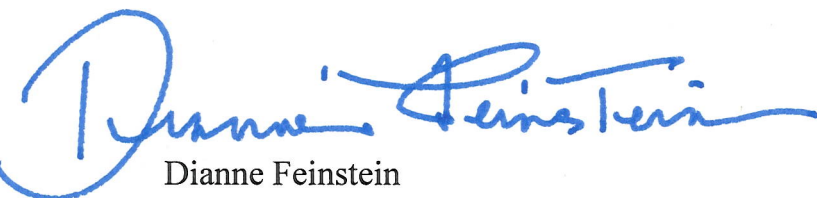
In testimony yesterday before the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats William Wechsler said, "The lapse in authority has had a clear impact on key national security objectives and on diplomatic relations with key foreign partners."

As Senator Levin indicated, these authorities are included in the National Defense Authorization Act, but they were not included in the recently passed Continuing Resolution. We very much hope that both of you will join us in supporting and quickly moving legislation to immediately extend these important authorities. This will ensure that the programs listed below can continue. According to the Department of Defense, the programs impacted include:

- “Stop work orders” have been issued for the repair and modification of 10 of the 20 MI-17 helicopters in Afghanistan used in support of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) efforts;
- In Colombia, there have been “stop work orders” on 15 contracts that support the Colombian military in efforts against the FARC in the La Macarena region;
- In Mexico, Defense Department information sharing support to Mexico and to U.S. agencies with respect to Mexico will be reduced in scope;
- Some Special Operations Forces counter-narcoterrorism deployments for the first quarter of FY 2012 have been cancelled or delayed. These include deployments to Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala and Panama; and
- While detection and monitoring of narcotics will continue, aerial and ground reconnaissance support to countries looking for high value drug trafficking targets is suspended.

We believe that time is of the essence in restoring these authorities. We respectfully urge you to work with us in supporting legislation to ensure that the programs listed above can be restored. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Senate Caucus on International
Narcotics Control



Charles Grassley
Co-Chairman
Senate Caucus on International
Narcotics Control