



AILA recommends VOTE NO on H.R. 2213, “Anti-Border Corruption Reauthorization Act”

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AILA recommends that Members of Congress oppose H.R. 2213, the Anti-Border Corruption Reauthorization Act. This bill would weaken hiring standards for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) by eliminating polygraph requirements for some applicants. H.R. 2213 would facilitate the Trump Administration’s [Executive Order on border security](#) on Border and its plans to build a [mass deportation machine](#). CBP has a long history of corruption and misconduct; now is the time to hold CBP more accountable for its actions, rather than watering down standards as H.R. 2213 proposes.

- **Congress should not be weakening hiring standards for CBP when they have a longstanding history with corruption, excessive force, and misconduct.** Border patrol agencies worldwide are [prone to corruption](#), and CBP has been no exception. Agents brought on during a hiring surge in the 2000’s were [frequently corrupt and prone to misconduct](#). According to the [Government Accountability Office](#), there were 2,170 reported incidents of CBP employees arrested for misconduct between 2005 and 2012. Almost 200 current or former CBP employees were arrested or indicted since October 2004 for corruption-related activities. Congress passed the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 just seven years ago to address exactly these kinds of concerns.
- **CBP has not shown that the exempted groups are less prone to corruption or pass the polygraph tests at a higher rate than other applicants.** Former head of CBP Internal Affairs Tomscheck stated that “[t]his change is being contemplated without consideration of whether these applicants pass the polygraph at a higher rate: they don’t. Nor do these groups present a lesser risk of integrity violations: they have been involved in some of the most serious CBP corruption activity and excessive force incidents.”
- **Other federal law enforcement agencies make no exceptions to the polygraph requirement for its applicants, including the FBI, DEA, ATF, and Secret Service.**
- **H.R. 2213 would enable Trump’s massive deportation plan.** President Trump’s Executive order on border security calls for mandating an increase of 5,000 Border Patrol agents, without providing any justification for the increase. The [number of Border Patrol officers](#) already doubled from 10,045 in FY 2002 to 19,828 in FY 2016. Moreover, overall border [apprehension numbers](#) are down significantly.
- **Experts agree that attempts to undermine the polygraph requirement would threaten national security, not enhance it.** Former Assistant Commissioner of CBP for Internal Affairs James Tomscheck [recently wrote](#) that attempts to undermine the polygraph requirement “would exacerbate corruption and abusive misconduct by adding unsuitable personnel who conceal criminal pasts - and/or have future intent to compromise CBP’s mission - so as to threaten our national security.”
- **[The CBP polygraph exam uncovered shocking examples of corruption, criminal behavior, including commission of sexual assault and other violent crimes, and child abuse, committed by applicants.](#)**