

**Written Statement for the Record
Submitted by Maria Espinoza of
The Remembrance Project Advocacy, Inc.
to The Subcommittee on National Security of
the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
April 27, 2017**

To The Committee:

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee I am honored to appear before you today, to testify on issues associated with National Security.

My testimony is based upon my nearly 8 years of traveling across the country with The Remembrance Project, an organization that advocates for those families - our country's previously 'most forgotten' - whose loved ones were killed by illegal aliens. My testimony is designed to assist

you and others understand the urgency of the immediate need to secure our country before another life unnecessary and preventable American life is 'stolen.'

I have attended murder trials, criminal and civil hearings, testified in Texas and California, we were invited and participated in a roundtable hosted by the LA County Sheriff's Department, I have made presentations and have spoken with groups all over the U.S. about the most devastating of all impacts of illegal immigration - the loss of life. I have had hundreds of first hand experiences with many families whose loved ones have been killed by illegal aliens.

I have visited the borders along our southern states and spoken with Border Agents, Police Officers, and Sheriffs and border Sheriffs. I have also participated in a night watch with the Texas Border Volunteers to observe and report to Border Patrol criminal trespassers. I have personally seen criminal trespassers in the dark of night who had snuck into our country and carrying backpacks. It was my teams belief that contained in the backpacks were illegal drugs to be sold on American streets and possible reaching our children's school playground.

On our own accord, we realized what President Donald Trump has exposed - that the media is not telling the truth, not being good journalists so we created the Stolen Lives Quilt in order to connect-the-dots and do the job the media was, and still is, unwilling to do - and that is to inform the public of the epidemic of killings of Americans taking place all across the nation - making every state a dangerous border state.

My husband and I took the Stolen Lives Quilt along on our 25 state tour, speaking with staffers in 21 state houses about the importance of upholding current laws in order to protect the citizens in their states. I also met with former Attorney General Eric Holder and former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson on this very same subject “national security.” Our pleas fell upon deaf ears and we saw the Obama Administration with his phone and a pen do more harm to the sovereignty of our nation and to our constitution than any other president. The People rose-up and on November 8, 2016, we saw a truly historic election, and miraculously a man who according to all the polls, did not have a snowball of a chance of winning - but ladies and gentlemen God is good and he answered our prayers. We have been given a man who has pledged his allegiance to our one nation under God and is methodically moving forward with ‘America first’ policies.

For nearly 20 years, families of Americans slain by illegal aliens have given heart-wrenching Congressional testimony about the tragic and violent killings of loved ones perpetrated by someone who should have never been in the country.

The irony? While it seemed as though the politicians listened and even publicly gave the families their condolences, Congressional leadership and the bodies of both houses, Democrat and Republican, have failed to enact the very measures that would have saved American lives. America has spoken. We want the wall to be built now.

Through my work, I know nearly every one of those families. Thanks to their bravery and to Donald Trump, most Americans now know them as “angel moms and angel dads, angel wives and husbands”... they are America’s “Stolen Lives” families.

Today I speak on behalf of The Remembrance Project Advocacy, Inc., where we proudly support our President and an “American First” national agenda. What is at stake here is nothing less than our national security, our American sovereignty. The wall is the foundation upon which a comprehensive border policy can and must be built. It is of the utmost urgency.

First, for a future perspective on the horrors of a national open borders' policy, let's look at Texas over the past 6 years:

¹According to DHS status indicators, over 217,000 criminal aliens have been booked into local Texas jails between June 1, 2011 and March 31, 2017, committing nearly 600,000 crimes, ranging from assault where there were nearly 70,000, to over 6,000 violent sexual assaults of women and children; and homicides which numbered nearly 1,200. These are only a “sampling” of the heinous crimes they have committed. DHS reports that a full 2 out of 3 of these crimes were committed by aliens here illegally.

A comprehensive list of all of these crimes can be found as noted below.

[Source: https://www.dps.texas.gov/administration/crime_records/pages/txCriminalAlienStatistics.htm]

Those who falsely state that a great border wall would not work either don't know their history, or are in denial. To those border wall nay-sayers, doubters and deniers, I can assure you that a wall will work. We see that throughout history. China built its Great Wall, the ancient Roman Empire built theirs, and we have the Vatican wall. And the walls had gates, the only place where entry was permitted. And a trained and armed militia to guard the walls. America could learn a lot about how to protect our Mexican border just by knowing a little “wall” history.

America actually has its own great examples. Today, where walls exist on our own southern border, illegal crossings have been drastically reduced by over 94%.

²Ronald Colburn, the former deputy chief of the Border Patrol testified that Yuma Sector arrests of illicit border crossers and traffickers had dwindled from over 138,000 down to 8,363. The known attempts to enter and the got-aways dwindled to an equally minimal number compared to the hundreds of thousands that entered and evaded arrest in previous years.

[Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/border-boss-wall-cut-illegal-crossings-94/article/2619261#.WO0YILI9qu4.twitter>]

Yes, your honorable committeemen and women, walls do work.

¹ Source: https://www.dps.texas.gov/administration/crime_records/pages/txCriminalAlienStatistics.htm]

² [Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/border-boss-wall-cut-illegal-crossings-94/article/2619261#.WO0YILI9qu4.twitter>]

And with today's sophisticated detection technology, and by putting many more boots on the ground, this 21st century wall will save countless American lives. Technology and boots are not enough! Congress has a moral obligation to support the peoples' demand for a secured border. Funding MUST be appropriated now. It's time to end the delay tactics and fund the construction of the wall - Not next year, not "one of these days"... but now.

To falter now has dire future consequences to Americans and America's future. If not built now, when another open-borders President is elected, the technological deterrents and the all-important army of border agents will be reduced or entirely removed, allowing this holocaust of American killings to resume. This unwise policy must not be allowed to be perpetrated upon our families.

Based upon preliminary information, we believe that the American Stolen Lives may number in the tens of thousands. But because the government, at every level, has previously failed to identify correctly the illegal alien killers, no one knows for sure. We welcome the Administrations efforts for an accurate accounting, and believe that all Americans, if they knew the true human cost of this invasion, would demand the wall be built immediately.

Gang-crime experts are surprised by the young age of some MS-13 gang members and have said the record numbers of unaccompanied minors coming across the border has significantly increased recruitment by violent illegal alien gangs operating in cities across America.

Just last month, in March, there has been a string of reports of horrific murders by illegal alien gang members:

- ³In my home state of Texas, two (2) alleged MS-13 gang members were charged with murdering a 15-year-old girl and holding her 14-year-old friend captive.

[Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/i-have-been-set-up-final-minutes-of-15-year-old-killed-in-gang-slaying-described/2017/03/02/bc2bcbce-fd29-11e6-8f41-ea6ed597e4ca_story.html?utm_term=.7906c4814435]

³ https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/i-have-been-set-up-final-minutes-of-15-year-old-killed-in-gang-slaying-described/2017/03/02/bc2bcbce-fd29-11e6-8f41-ea6ed597e4ca_story.html?utm_term=.7906c4814435

- ⁴In New York, 16 alleged MS-13 gang members were charged in 7 murders

[Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/03/02/ms-13-gang-members-indicted-in-ny-teen-killings.html>]

- In Virginia, MS-13 gang members murdered a teenage girl and a young man.

As anyone can see from the murderous rampage by illegals, it is urgent we address the lack of national security in America immediately.

Equally important to securing our borders along the exterior of the country - is securing the interior. This means we must end the dangerous sanctuary city policies and put an end to the safe-havens for criminal illegal aliens.

The Remembrance Project Advocacy stands behind President Trump and with the American people in demanding that Congress immediately fund the construction of the wall. We also request that 'stolen lives' families be invited to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for the wall.

All of you here today, and all of Congress, bear a duty, not just to your constituents but to all Americans, to preserve our sovereign nation and keep our communities safe by first and foremost, securing our borders.

We cannot bring back our precious Americans who were killed by illegal aliens, however, you can fulfill your promises through your oaths of office to protect America and Americans against foreign invaders.

I ask you to do all you can to stop these preventable killings and murders that permanently separate families from their loved ones - Not one (1) more 'stolen life'.

Thank you. God bless you and God bless America.

⁴ <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/03/02/ms-13-gang-members-indicted-in-ny-teen-killings.html>

**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Witness Disclosure Requirement — “Truth in Testimony”**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5) and Committee Rule 16(a), non-governmental witnesses are required to provide the Committee with the information requested below in advance of testifying before the Committee. You may attach additional sheets if you need more space.

Name: **Maria Espinoza**

1. Please list any entity you are testifying on behalf of and briefly describe your relationship with these entities.	
Name of Entity	Your relationship with the entity
The Remembrance Project Advocacy, Inc.	Co-founder and Vice-President

2. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) you or the entity or entities listed above have received since January 1, 2015, that are related to the subject of the hearing.					
Recipient of the grant or contact (you or entity above)	Grant or Contract Name	Agency	Program	Source	Amount
None					

2. Please list any payments or contracts (including subcontracts) you or the entity or entities listed above have received since January 1, 2015 from a foreign government, that are related to the subject of the hearing.					
Recipient of the grant or contact (you or entity above)	Grant or Contract Name	Agency	Program	Source	Amount
None					

I certify that the information above and attached is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature *Maria Espinoza*

Date: 4-24-2017

Maria Espinoza Bio

Maria Espinoza is the Co-founder and Vice-President of The Remembrance Project Advocacy, Inc. based in Houston, Texas.

She co-founded and is the national director for The Remembrance Project, which advocates for families whose loved ones were killed by illegal aliens. Their flagship initiative is called, "The Stolen Lives Quilt"™. She has expanded her growing organization nationally.

Since 2009, Maria has worked to unite the 'stolen lives' families, educating the public of the epidemic of killings across the country, and raising awareness of the effects of illegal immigration. It is not a victimless crime. Maria believes current laws and borders should be enforced, and that Americans must be the priority in America.

Maria lives in Houston with her husband, Tim. She is the child of an immigrant father and a 5th generation Texan. Maria attended Abilene Christian University on a Track & Field Scholarship where she became an All-American Miler.