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COMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
ARMED SERVICES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

April 20, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting me regarding your views on illegal immigration. I appreciate hearing from you.

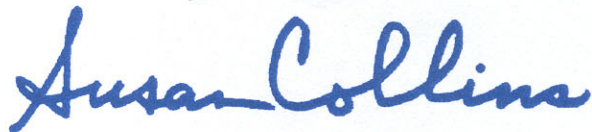
I understand your concerns regarding the problem of illegal immigration and the need to secure our borders. Illegal immigration presents a significant security risk and raises issues of fundamental fairness.

In searching for solutions to the complex immigration problem facing our country, we need to address a few basic issues. First, we need to secure our borders. It is impossible to impose meaningful reform if our borders continue to be susceptible to frequent illegal crossings. Second, we have to consider the unfairness of granting amnesty to people who have come to this country illegally. I oppose amnesty because it is unfair to the millions of people who have gone through the process of coming to America legally and to the millions more who would like to immigrate to America, but have not yet because they are playing by the rules. Third, we have to address the problem of the 11 million illegal immigrants who are already in the country. I agree with the President that some form of temporary worker program is necessary, but it needs to reflect the fairness concerns discussed above.

The Senate spent the week of April 3rd debating legislation that was intended to address the illegal immigration problem. The debate failed to produce a bill, and it is unclear when the Senate will return to the issue.

Again, thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

SMC:cb