

List is widely recognized as a powerful tool in the fight against terrorist networks around the world. Designating a terrorist group as an “FTO” makes it clear that organizations that engage in terrorist activity should not be welcome in any civilized society, while the wide-ranging effects of designation can hamper a network’s financing and operations. Often, when the United States adds an organization to the FTO List, they are leading the global community in taking on extremist groups willing to murder innocent civilians, and therefore, the value of a credible, potent, and reliable designation process is immense.

The Secretary of State’s role in managing the FTO List in accordance with Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is complemented by consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury. Each of these cabinet level officials plays a role in enforcing an FTO designation, and their assistance in considering potential additions to the list is absolutely vital. However, since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—which also has responsibility for many of the enforcement tools of FTO Designations—the role of the Secretary of Homeland Security in the FTO process has not been codified in statute.

As an example, DHS is the only Cabinet-level Department whose first three missions are the prevention of terrorism and enhancement of security; securing and managing borders; and enforcing and administering immigration laws. Each of these is a major component of the FTO List, which is designed to mitigate the terrorist threat and prevent members of designated organizations from entering the United States. Further, DHS already plays a significant role in assisting the Department of State in making FTO designations by providing information gathered by component agencies and DHS’ Office of Intelligence and Analysis. The Immigration and Nationality Act should codify the reality of the responsibility DHS has to assist in these designations.

Additionally, DHS personnel have a large presence in foreign countries, and DHS employees interact with individuals attempting to enter the United States thousands of times each day. DHS personnel contribute to screening FTO members who attempt to enter the United States.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), an office within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), is the second-largest federal investigative agency in the country. The National Security Investigation Division of HSI “enhances national security through criminal investigations; prevents acts of terrorism by targeting people, money and materials that support terrorist and criminal activities; and identifies and eliminates vulnerabilities in the nation’s border, economic, transportation and infrastructure security.” This mission is intimately linked to the FTO list.

Many recent FTO designations have been issued for groups that have already attacked U.S. interests, U.S. citizens, or the U.S. Homeland. At the same time, many of these organizations engaged in terrorist activity and have been viewed as terrorist networks long before their inclusion in the FTO list. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Boko Haram, the Haqqani Network, and al Shabaab are some such examples. Yet the FTO list was intended to proactively respond to the threat of terrorism, and should be

utilized as a weapon in the fight against all terrorist entities, not merely a declaration of the obvious and measure of last resort.

With this in mind, it is important to balance the diplomatic concerns of the State Department with the law enforcement concerns of the Departments of Justice and Treasury, and the security concerns of the Department of Homeland Security. Terrorist groups, and their members, should be identified as terrorists and barred from the United States according to the threat they pose. Adding the Secretary of Homeland Security to the formal designation processes in statute will help achieve that goal.

The FTO Reform Act of 2014 will strengthen the FTO process and ensure all relevant considerations are taken into account when considering potential FTO designations. Lastly, the bill enhances Congressional oversight and creates greater visibility into the impacts of these designations and how they are used.

RECOGNIZING PHILLIP V.
SANCHEZ

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phillip V. Sanchez as he celebrates his 85th birthday. His many years of dedication to civil service deserve both acknowledgement and appreciation. Sanchez was a pioneer for the Mexican American community; he was the first Latino to serve in a Presidential administration as the Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, an impressive feat.

Sanchez was born on July 28, 1929. He is the son of Mexican migrant workers, who settled in the small town of Pinedale in California’s San Joaquin River Valley. A student at the nearby Clovis High School, he founded and edited the school newspaper. Graduating salutatorian in 1946, his accomplishments garnered the superlative “Most Likely to Succeed,” an obvious indicator of his future successes. Sanchez went on to earn both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in political science at Fresno State, where he chartered the school’s chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and wrote for the school’s paper, *The Daily Collegian*. After graduating from Fresno State, he took the position of Fresno County Chief Administrative Officer, his first government position.

It was in 1971 that Sanchez was appointed as director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity under the Nixon administration, making him the first Latino to serve in a Presidential administration and thereby cementing himself in history. He served admirably in this position until 1973, when President Nixon appointed him as the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras. Sanchez also served as Ambassador to Colombia under President Ford’s administration.

Phillip V. Sanchez serves as a prime example of an exemplary citizen. Although not currently active in politics, he continues to contribute to his community, recently reading to children at the Mexican Consulate in honor of Children’s Day. His accomplishments have inspired numerous individuals, and his name

now graces the halls of the Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez Public Charter School.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Phillip V. Sanchez on his 85th birthday. He serves as shining example of outstanding public service, and I thank him for both his dedication to the Mexican American community and to this nation.

RECOGNIZING ORGANIZATIONS
LIKE YMCAS THAT PROVIDE
CHILDREN WITH SAFE SWIM-
MING SKILLS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the three children who die every day as a result of drowning—and to recognize organizations, like YMCAs across the country, that are working to give children and youth the skills to prevent these tragic accidents from happening.

Drowning is the leading cause of death nationally for children aged 1–4, and is the second leading cause of death for children aged 5–9. For children between 5 and 9, the drowning rate for African American and American Indian children is roughly 3 times that of white children, and African American children aged 11 and 12 are 10 times more likely to drown in pools than their white counterparts. Regardless of race, lower income populations disproportionately bear the burden of drowning in their communities.

During 2013, 7 children drowned in the Dallas metropolitan area. In Texas, 82 children were victims of drowning. During 2012, 66% of child drowning victims in Texas were male.

Both in Texas and across the country, there is an opportunity and a need to save these children’s lives—to reach out to communities that historically have not had access to swimming and drowning prevention programs. Many low-income children live in housing complexes with unguarded swimming pools, and in hot summer months, these pools may be the only way to cool down, as many of the housing units lack air conditioning.

The YMCA is one example of an organization that is changing statistics for children across the country. The YMCA is bringing swimming safety and drowning prevention programs to these community sites. YMCAs also partner with schools to bring kids to the Y for lessons and offer swimming lessons year-round. I am thrilled that the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas is one of the 15 YMCAs across the country piloting a program to reduce youth incidences of drowning. The YMCA makes an effort to go into underserved communities to teach drowning prevention and water safety to children who otherwise would not have access to these life-saving skills. Moreover, the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas is one of 103 Ys providing additional scholarships to children in their community that may not otherwise have access to swim lessons as part of a nationwide data collection project on effectiveness of skill instruction in all communities.

I would like to congratulate the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas on its innovative efforts to save the lives of all our children, and to join