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(Washington, D.C.) -- Days after returning from a trip to the Arizona border, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) joined with Congressman Heath Shuler (NC-11) and 35 other bipartisan lawmakers to introduce the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act. The SAVE Act is a comprehensive bill that would combat illegal immigration by hiring 5,000 additional Border Patrol agents, deploying improved technology along the border, and requiring every American employer to verify that their employees are eligible to work in the United States.

“By strengthening America’s borders and cracking down on employers who hire illegal immigrants, the SAVE Act can help stem the flow of illegal immigrants into our country,” Congressman Altmire said. “When I visited the U.S.-Mexico border last weekend, it was very clear that we need to hire more border patrol agents. The SAVE Act would put 5,000 additional Border Patrol agents on the job, and it would provide these agents with the tools that they need to find and stop would-be illegal immigrants.”

The SAVE Act requires every employer to verify their employees’ eligibility to work in the United States through the Employment Eligibility Verification (E-Verify) program. E-Verify is currently being used by over 200,000 employers and has been proven to be an effective way to confirm workers’ eligibility to work in the U.S. The SAVE Act would also help to combat fraud by requiring that individuals be notified when their Social Security Numbers have been stolen and are being misused.

The SAVE Act would enhance current illegal immigration enforcement measures by hiring more Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials and improving resources for expedient judicial proceedings during immigration trials. It would also help to secure America’s borders by utilizing new surveillance technology and expanding anti-smuggling enforcement programs.