

DUNCAN HUNTER  
52D DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND  
SECONDARY EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0552

223 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0552  
(202) 225-5672  
FAX: (202) 225-0235

1870 CORDELL COURT, #206  
EL CAJON, CA 92020  
(619) 448-5201  
FAX: (619) 449-2251

May 3, 2012

Michele Leonhart  
Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration  
8701 Morrisette Drive  
Springfield, Virginia 22152

Dear Administrator Leonhart:

Reports of the incarceration of Daniel Chong, a 23-year old San Diego student, raise concerns about the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and its procedures for handling and monitoring individuals in custody. While it is appropriate that the DEA has since taken full responsibility for leaving Chong in a holding cell for five days, the fact that this incident even occurred suggests a breakdown in both procedure and oversight, specifically in the San Diego Division.

Understanding the DEA's mission in San Diego, which is made more dangerous due to the region's close proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, it is important that all elements of law enforcement are not just working together, but are also operating efficiently and effectively. The situation involving Chong may in fact be an isolated incident. Regardless, my concern is that this situation could also be a symptom of a bigger problem, with errors in procedure and oversight possibly extending to the Division's law enforcement function.

To address this concern, I respectfully request a full account of Chong's incarceration, the process currently in place for holding individuals suspected of unlawful activity and the steps that the DEA is taking to address this matter in its entirety. I would also appreciate information on other recent reviews or investigations that might pertain to the DEA's San Diego Division, as well as any assurances you can provide that the DEA is committed to reviewing this latest incident in the interest of ensuring that the Regional Division is operating as it should.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter", written over a large, stylized blue scribble.

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress