

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

We write asking you to join us as members of Colorado's congressional delegation in urging Colorado Department of Corrections Executive Director Moses Stancil to reject the Juveniles and Young Adults Convicted as Adults Program (JYACAP) application of Raul Gomez-Garcia, a convicted cop-killer and illegal immigrant.

On the morning of May 8th, 2005, 19-year-old Gomez-Garcia ambushed two Denver Police officers in uniform, killing Detective Donnie Young and seriously injuring Officer Jack Bishop. The cold-blooded execution of Detective Young was vicious, senseless, and downright evil. His killer shot him multiple times including once in the head – widowing a loving wife and robbing three children of their father¹.

After committing this crime, Gomez-Garcia fled to his native country of Mexico, only being extradited after the Mexican government was assured that he would not face charges of capital punishment or life in prison without the possibility of parole. Instead, the Denver District Attorney charged Gomez-Garcia with second-degree murder and first-degree attempted murder to ensure he would face justice in a Colorado court while still facing the lengthiest sentence possible². This murderer was eventually sentenced to 80 years in state prison, a sentence the presiding judge lamented as not being long enough. During the trial, the arresting officers and the killer's own girlfriend testified under oath that Gomez-Garcia was "proud" to have murdered Detective Young, and even displayed the symbols of a local street gang during his final sentencing³.

¹ <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/4464046/detail.html>

² <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/4573396/detail.html>

³ http://test.denverpost.com/news/ci_4550813

Gomez-Garcia was not eligible to apply for the Juveniles Convicted as Adults Program, a fast-track to parole for criminals convicted of a felony offense committed when the offender was under 18, until you signed HB 21-1209 on July 6, 2021. This legislation amended the program as the Juveniles and Young Adults Convicted as Adults Program, to expand eligibility to criminals who were convicted of felonies committed as legal adults, up until the age of 21 years old⁴. It is under that law that Gomez-Garcia now seeks to be eligible for parole after serving less than a quarter of his 80-year sentence.

Given the horrific and undeniably evil nature of this crime that resulted in the execution of a Colorado Peace Officer, devoted husband, and loving father – we ask that you join us in urging Executive Director Moses Stancil to reject Gomez-Garcia’s JYACAP application. Colorado elected officials, law enforcement groups, and the victim’s family have been united in opposing the killer’s application to this program – including former Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey who was elected as a Democrat and whose office convicted Gomez Garcia⁵.

Additionally, we strongly urge you to work with the State Legislature in amending HB 21-1209 to ensure that illegal immigrants and individuals who have been convicted of murdering a law enforcement officer are not eligible under the JYACAP. The victims of crimes committed by these perpetrators deserve to be spared from the horror and trauma associated with these offenders potentially being released from prison early.

You often iterate your commitment to working to create safer communities for all Coloradans – including your willingness to keep illegal immigrants who commit crimes off our streets through robust law enforcement action and partnering with federal immigration authorities. We sincerely hope you take this opportunity to put words into action and live up to your commitment to the people of Colorado by opposing Gomez-Garcia’s JYACAP application and working in good faith with the Democrat majority in the Colorado State Capitol to prevent cop killers and illegal immigrants convicted of felonies from being fast-tracked for release back into our local communities.

We sincerely share your oft-repeated goal of making Colorado one of the top 10 safest states in the nation. We remain deeply frustrated that misguided policies have resulted in Colorado being designated as the third most dangerous state in the entire country and that your capital city of Denver is ranked as the 10th most dangerous city in the country, worse than cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City⁶. As such, we are hopeful that you will work with

⁴ <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1209>

⁵ <https://www.9news.com/article/news/investigations/denver-police-killer-shorten-sentence-program/73-d1fcb4cd-be1d-4f94-b3cf-4d644edd4b1d>

⁶ <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-most-dangerous-states-in-america>,
<https://realestate.usnews.com/places/rankings/most-dangerous-places>

us to take this critical first step in making Colorado safer by returning to commonsense policies that keep dangerous criminals – the worst of the worst – off our streets and in prison where they belong. Victims, their families, and all Coloradans deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gabe Evans in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

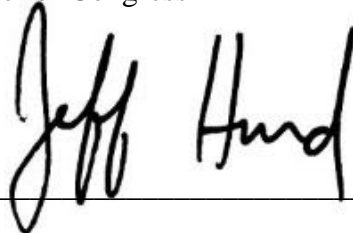
Gabe Evans
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Lauren Boebert in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jeff Crank in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Crank
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jeff Hurd in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress

cc: Moses Stancil, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Corrections