

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) applauded today’s presidential commutation of the sentences imposed on U.S. Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean.

Bachus was one of 74 Members of Congress who asked President Bush to commute the harsh prison sentences imposed on Ramos and Compean. The agents were convicted of shooting and injuring an illegal alien drug smuggler during a chase along U.S.-Mexico border in Texas in 2005. The case generated national attention because many legal analysts believe a law covering the illegal discharge of a firearm was improperly applied to law enforcement officers carrying out public safety duties.

“Border agents work under dangerous circumstances every day to protect our safety. They must feel confident in their ability to capture criminals and protect themselves. How we treat agents like Ramos and Compean has a direct effect on the level of security along our border,” Congressman Bachus said.

The commutation means that Ramos and Compean, who are serving sentences of 11 and 10 years respectively, will be released from prison in March.