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SINCE 1882

Congressman takes up cause of college star

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Chula Vista Congressman Bob Filner said he was contacted over the weekend by the family of a female Southwestern College student after she was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"It's horrendous that this occurred," said Filner, adding that Reyes was released Monday.

According to sources, Ayded Reyes, 20, who is on the college's track and field team, was detained Thursday by ICE after her boyfriend was pulled over by a San Diego Police officer.

Reyes was a passenger in the vehicle.

When the couple was asked to provide identification Reyes could only produce her college ID.

Filner's office has worked with numerous similar cases over the years and is working on passing a bill that typically stalls any deportation. But he said passing the is bill difficult because Republicans call it amnesty.

"We're going to try to protect



FILE PHOTO

Congressman Bob Filner said he is working on legislation that would keep Southwestern College student Ayded Reyes from being deported.

her through a 'private bill,' which offers citizenship for a person who is not eligible in other ways," he said.

San Diego ICE spokeswoman Lauren Mack was unable to con-

firm or deny whether Reyes was detained by ICE due to privacy rights. She did say, however, that agents could be called to the scene for an immigration violation.

"We don't have an enforcement

program where we patrol and pull people over to take them into custody (on a regular basis)," Mack said. "We don't typically get called either, but it depends on what area it's in and the circumstance."

SWC track and field head distance coach Duro Agbede said that Reyes has been a member of the team since 2010 and he recruited her from Mission Bay High School.

"We are only required to recruit California residents in our district," he said. "We are all a little worried" that she may be deported, he said. "But I believe in the justice system."

Reyes was born in Mexico but brought to the United States by her parents as a toddler and has been here since, Filner said.

Agbede said that Reyes has attended elementary, junior high and high school in the county.

She is a freshman on Southwestern College's track and field team and on the all-time top 10 list for the 800-, 3,000-, 5,000- and 10,000-meter distance races for 2011. She also broke two school records this year in the 800- and 1,000-meter races.

The San Diego Police Department did not return calls for comment.