

# Border Security & Immigration Testimony from Former U.S. Ambassador Wayne

On December 12, 2018 Former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and Public Policy Fellow at the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute, Earl Anthony Wayne, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Border Security. His testimony focused on U.S. – Mexico cooperation on border crime and related issues, including areas of potential engagement with Mexico's new president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, also known as AMLO.

Ambassador Wayne highlighted the progress made by both countries over the past ten years to further cooperation on a range of security issues and of the pressing challenges faced today. He stated that the U.S. and Mexico need to invest in deepening joint efforts to augment the homeland security of both countries, as well as review how cooperation can mesh most effectively with the new multi-pronged approach to public security being developed by Mexican President Lopez Obrador and his team.

In his testimony before the subcommittee, Ambassador Wayne included an overview of the rising U.S. opioid addiction and increased violence in Mexico, AMLO's Eight Pillars to restore social peace and law and order, the Merida Initiative's Four Pillars, ongoing problems and challenges to address, and his perspective on keys to future success. He advised that while both countries face major challenges in dealing with cross-border criminal organizations and enhancing the security of the border, there is a solid foundation of cooperation with Mexico upon which to build. Furthermore, he stated that Congress has a vital role to play in assuring that reinvigorating U.S. – Mexico cooperation gets off to a good start with a comprehensive vision and plans that are sufficiently funded.

To view or download Ambassador Wayne's entire testimony before the Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, click [HERE](#). To watch the full hearing, click [HERE](#). (Ambassador Wayne's remarks commence at 01:56:48).

*Former Ambassador Wayne participated in CSG West's [Border Legislative Academy](#) last July in San Diego where he provided an overview of the U.S. – Mexico binational relationship. In his role as a Public Policy Fellow at the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute, he has also produced several articles on the binational relationship. For more information, please visit the Mexico Institute website [HERE](#).*