

*Via email delivery only*

November 15, 2024

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**Re: Act now to protect immigrant communities**

Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas,

Our 193 immigrant and civil rights organizations urgently write to ask that you take immediate action to protect immigrant communities while you still can. In your remaining months in office, you have an opportunity to honor your stated commitments to the dignity and humane treatment of all people, including those who immigrate to our nation, before the next president follows through on his mass deportation plans, separating families and upending the lives of millions of people in the process.

We implore you to immediately take the following steps:

- 1. Close detention centers:** We ask that you take action now to reduce Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention capacity. Many of our organizations have been calling for the closure of detention facilities, particularly those with extensively documented histories of inhumane and abusive conditions. Facilities across the system have documented instances of physical abuse, inadequate food and water, negligent or abusive medical care, unsanitary conditions, failed plumbing and more. Avoidable deaths in ICE detention centers are at record numbers. No one should be detained in these conditions. You promised to end the use of for-profit detention centers by the federal government and with over 90% detained at facilities run by private companies, this is your final chance to follow through on that promise.
- 2. Halt all expansion efforts:** We ask that you immediately halt all efforts to expand the ICE detention system by freezing all negotiations and rescinding all Requests for Proposal (RFP) and Requests for Information (RFI). Throughout the last four years, ICE has been actively seeking to expand detention capacity through direct and indirect negotiations with private prison corporations and other entities. Just this year, the agency issued two RFIs seeking to massively expand the detention system across multiple states. Providing the incoming administration with an expanded system will have

disastrous effects on our immigrant and mixed-status community members. To protect families and prevent separations, you must take all possible action to prevent the incoming administration from being able to easily expand detention capacity, including by pressuring Congress to pass a reduced appropriation for immigration detention.

- 3. Release people from detention:** In tandem with canceling detention center contracts and halting expansion efforts, we ask that you take action to release people from detention, starting with particularly vulnerable populations (including people with physical and mental health conditions) and those eligible for parole, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or other protections. People can and should be able to go through their immigration proceedings in community with the support of their loved ones and access to legal support.

Now is the time to take decisive action to prevent catastrophe for millions of people and avoid handing the keys to an expanded and inhumane detention and deportation system to the next president.

Sincerely,

Detention Watch Network

18 Million Rising

Acacia Center for Justice

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago

Adalah Justice Project

Afghans For A Better Tomorrow

Al Otro Lado

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Alianza Americas

Alianza Sacramento

Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance -AMOR-

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Friends Service Committee, Colorado

American Gateways

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Amica Center for Immigrant Rights

ANAR

Arab American Civic Council

Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)

ArchCity Defenders

Arizona Justice for Our Neighbors

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Law Caucus

Asian Prisoner Support Committee

AVAN Immigrant Services

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)  
Black Diaspora Liberty Initiative Inc.  
Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP)  
Border Butterflies Project  
Borderlands Resource Initiative  
Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network  
Bridges Faith Initiative  
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council  
Buen Vecino  
CAIR WA  
Calif Coalition for Women Prisoners  
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance  
Carolina Migrant Network  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Immigration Law and Policy at the UCLA School of Law  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Central American Resource Center - CARECEN- of California  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)  
Clean Elections Texas  
Coalition for Civil Freedoms  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice  
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)  
Community Justice Exchange / National Bail Fund Network  
Comunidades Unidas en una Voz  
Conversations with Friends  
Council for Global Equality  
Critical Resistance  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Democratic Messaging Project  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
El Pueblo Unido of Atlantic City  
El Refugio  
Envision Freedom Fund  
Faith in Action  
FAITH IN TEXAS  
Federacion de Clubes Michoacanos en Il  
First Friends of New Jersey & New York  
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

Florida Immigrant Coalition  
Florida Legal Services, Inc.  
Florida Student Power  
Free Migration Project  
Freedom for Immigrants (FFI)  
Freedom Network USA  
Friends of Human Rights  
Grassroots Asians Rising  
HANA Center  
Hindus for Human Rights  
Hispanic Federation  
Home is Here NOLA  
Hope Border Institute  
Human Impact Partners  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Watch  
Ice out of Tarrant  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Families Together  
Immigrant Justice Committee, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis  
Immigrant Justice Network  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration Hub  
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)  
Indiana AID  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
Indivisible Chicago Alliance  
Indivisible Denver  
Indivisible Front Range Resistance  
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
Interrupting Criminalization  
Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western Mass  
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs  
JUNTOS  
Just Futures Law  
La ColectiVA  
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Latinx Therapists Action Network

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the SF Bay Area  
Lighthouse Equality Advocacy Project  
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention  
Make The Road CT  
Make the Road Nevada  
Make the Road New Jersey  
Make the Road NY  
Make the Road Pennsylvania  
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center  
Mariposa Legal  
Mariposas Sin Fronteras  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Mauritanian Network for Human Rights  
Midwest Immigration Bond Fund  
Migrant Justice  
MN Interfaith Coalition on Immigration  
MPower Change Action Fund  
Mujeres Latinas en Acción  
Muslim Advocates  
Muslims for Just Futures  
Mutual Aid Immigration Network  
National Employment Law Project  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice  
National Lawyers Guild-SF Bay Area Chapter  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Never Again Action  
New Breath Foundation  
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center  
No Separate Justice  
NorCal Resist  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
NWDC Independent Visitation  
Oasis Legal Services  
Ohio Immigrant Alliance  
ORALE  
Orange County Equality Coalition  
Orange County Justice Fund  
Orange County Rapid Response Network  
Pangea Legal Services

Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans  
Pax Christi New Jersey  
Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition (PIC)  
Popular Democracy  
Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts  
Public Citizen  
Public Counsel  
Refugee Support Network  
Rising Majority  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network  
Rural Organizing Project  
San Francisco Public Defender's Office  
Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN)  
Showing Up for Racial Justice  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team  
South Bay People Power  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southeast Dignity Not Detention Coalition  
Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project (SSIP)  
Swan Counseling Services  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Bronx Defenders  
The Mami Chelo Foundation  
Trans Queer Pueblo  
Transformations CDC  
Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT)  
Tsuru for Solidarity  
UndocuBlack Network  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United We Dream  
Vera Institute of Justice  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness at the Border  
Woori Juntos

cc

Neera Tanden  
Domestic Policy Advisor to President Biden and Director  
Domestic Policy Council

Patrick J. Lechleitner  
Deputy Director and Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Michael Lumpkin  
Chief of Staff  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement