

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your leadership on immigration and your swift action. We are encouraged by your quick executive actions on a range of issues like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the suspension of the Migrant Protection Protocols, and the creation of an Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families. We also acknowledge the challenges to immediately enacting your full agenda, including the suit brought by the Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton against your 100-day moratorium on deportations. There is much hard work that remains to finally fix our broken immigration system and stand ready to work closely with you and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to achieve that goal.

We write to you out of concern regarding the continued abuses of immigrant families by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and urge you to take immediate action to reform the agency. Because of the legal challenge against your deportation moratorium, ICE continues to act with the same impunity it has engaged in over the last four years under the Trump Administration. A terrible and tragic example occurred on January 29, 2021 when ICE deported Rosa [REDACTED] to Mexico after she was stopped by the El Paso Police Department due to a faulty brake light and later arrested for outstanding traffic warrants from 2015.

Ms. [REDACTED] has lived in the United States for over ten years and is currently petitioning for U Nonimmigration Status (U Visa) due to her surviving and witnessing the domestic terror attack on August 3, 2019 in El Paso, Texas. That horrific shooting, which was the deadliest targeted attack against Latinos in modern American history, took the lives of 23 people, injured 22, and traumatized innumerable individuals like Ms. [REDACTED]. Ms. [REDACTED] deportation has re-traumatized her and has shed a light into the horrific practice of deporting immigrant victims and witnesses of crime. We ask that you immediately review unjust deportations like Ms. [REDACTED] and believe you should enact policies that protect victims and witnesses of crime from deportation.

We believe a review of ICE, its leadership, policies, and practices would make our country safer and restore American values. We look forward to working with you to end such practices and ensure that vulnerable immigrant communities are protected.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress