

November 30, 2023

To Members of Congress,

We write as organizations committed to civil rights, human rights, gender, and racial justice to express extreme concern over proposals to dramatically and permanently change the U.S. immigration system. These changes would devastate America's asylum process and harm asylum seekers and other vulnerable immigrants. As Congress negotiates an emergency supplemental funding bill, some Members of Congress are misusing these negotiations in order to extract cruel, ineffective and radical changes to our immigration and asylum system. These changes would have lasting effects that would create more chaos and disorder at the southern border and across neighboring countries. Demanding impossible standards for securing asylum or curbing parole authority as a condition for moving funding for Ukraine is unacceptable.

We are appalled by proposals that would eliminate or reduce access to asylum or parole at precisely the moment in which protections for people seeking refuge are most needed. These proposals include statutory changes to asylum law that would violate international law and decimate decades-old laws that were passed with almost unanimous support, undermining refugee protection globally. Most importantly, if these proposals are implemented, more people who have no choice but to flee for their lives will be sent back to once again face persecution and harm. Some will die. The harm will fall disproportionately on Black, Brown, Indigenous, women, and LGBTQI refugees who are already marginalized globally.

Congress should advance bipartisan solutions to provide smart resources at the border that make the existing process work better while keeping communities safe. For example, Congress should increase funding to improve asylum processing; reduce backlogs and work permit waiting times; resource states, localities and community shelter and support services; and fund legal counsel. A smart funding package should not expand detention and deportation, but instead devote funds to supporting a humane asylum system that provides access to safety for all who need refuge.

We all share a commitment to ensuring that those who need protection can find it here in the United States. We urge Members of Congress to reject demands that are reminiscent of the Trump administration's efforts to end asylum.

Signed:

#WelcomeWithDignity

ACLU People Power Fairfax

African Communities Together (ACT)

African Services Committee

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Aldea - The People's Justice Center

Alianza Americas

American Civil Liberties Union

American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Gateways

American Immigration Council

Americans for Immigrant Justice

America's Voice

APIAHF

Arkansas United

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)

ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Association of Wartime Allies

Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)

Ayuda

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Bergen County Green Party

Bergen County Immigration Strategy Group

Border Network for Human Rights (BNHR)

Brooklyn Immigrant Community Support

Building One Community

Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition

CASA

California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)

Casa Freehold

Catholic Migration Services

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Center for Immigration Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law

Center for Law and Social Policy

Center for Popular Democracy

Center for Victims of Torture

Central American Resource Center of Northern CA - CARECEN SF

Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

Church World Service

Coalición de Derechos Humanos

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Coalition on Human Needs

Co-Counsel NYC

Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)

Community Change Action

Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina-COPAL-

Comunidades Unidas
Conklin Immigration Law, LLC
DIRE Legal and Support Services
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, Washington DC
ECDC
Economic Policy Institute
Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Esperanza United
Faith in New Jersey
Fordham Law School Feerick Center for Social Justice
Partnership for New Americans
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Franciscan Action Network
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Her Justice, Inc.
HIAS
Hispanic Federation
Hope Border Institute
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights First
Humanitarian Outreach for Migrant Emotional Health (H.O.M.E.)
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Immigration Hub
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Center for Women and Children
Immigration Equality Action Fund
Indivisible
Interfaith Campaign for Just Closures
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL)
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA
Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Women International
Just Neighbors
Justice & Advocacy Ministries at Disciples Home Missions
Justice Action Center
Justice in Motion
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Lawyers for Good Government
Latino Community Foundation
League of Conservation Voters
LORI

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)
Make the Road Connecticut
Make the Road Nevada
Make the Road New Jersey
Make the Road New York
Make the Road Pennsylvania
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Metro New York Health Care for All
Michigan United
MIRA Coalition
MomsRising
MSJC Immigration Committee
Muslim Advocates
NAKASEC
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association - NAAPIMHA
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Black Justice Coalition
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
National Education Association
National Health Law Program
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)
National LGBTQ Task Force Action
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Partnership for New Americans
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
NC FIELD, Inc.
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New York Immigration Coalition
Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
Occupy Bergen County
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity/Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
OneAmerica
Oxfam America
Paloonkey
Pax Christi New Jersey
People's Action
Physicians for Human Rights
Presente.org
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Quixote Center
RAICES
Refugee Council USA
Refugees International

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Safe Harbor Clinic
Save the Children
Sciencecorps
Services, Immigrant Rights, & Education Network
Shalom Friends Immigration Detention Visitation Group
Sojourners-SojoAction
Sosa Law
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Southern Border Communities Coalition
Tahirih Justice Center
Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors
The Advocates for Human Rights
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corporation
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
UndocuBlack Network
Unidad Latina en Accion NJ
UnidosUS
Union For Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist FaithAction NJ
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United We Dream
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
Value Our Families
Vera Institute of Justice
VoteVets
Voto Latino
Washington Office on Latin America
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Witness at the Border
Women's Refugee Commission
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights
YWCA USA