

December 19, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to urge the administration to take into consideration how the border security measures being negotiated in Congress with the emergency supplemental legislation will threaten the safety and security of the country's 62 million Latinos and the risk they represent to our nation's economy and social fabric.

Like their fellow Americans, Latinos want a secure and well-managed border. Yet we are deeply alarmed by recent reports that indicate that your administration [is open to](#) expanding the ability to carry out rapid deportations in the United States and significantly restricting the ability to access asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, including by:

- 1) Expanding the ability to rapidly deport individuals, which currently exists in areas 100 miles from all U.S. borders, to the whole country.
- 2) Mandating the detention of all individuals arriving at the border, including families.
- 3) Dramatically raising the standard to pass the threshold interview that determines access to our asylum system.
- 4) Granting the President powers to expel individuals from the U.S.-Mexico border, similar to Title 42.
- 5) Requiring migrants to stay in Mexico during their asylum case proceedings.
- 6) Gutting parole authority that allows the United States to create legal pathways for vulnerable populations and provide relief for certain groups in the country.

It would be a stunning and deeply disappointing setback to witness this administration enact a law that could lead to a return to a pre-civil rights era of racial discrimination. Giving future Presidents the authority to expand rapid deportations within the United States [would enable](#) government officials to harass those who they believe look or sound foreign-born.

The authority to separate families in an expedited way would be devastating to the 22 million mixed-status families in the United States [with at least one](#) undocumented family member. Such actions would serve as an unacceptable return to our nation's dark history of the 1950s and "Operation Wetback" when U.S. authorities [deported](#) Mexican individuals from the United States in years of mass raids that disrupted businesses and left deep scars in communities in which they took place.

We also have major concerns about the impact of the proposed border policies on individuals seeking safety in the country. Rather than regulating migration to the border, measures that disqualify individuals from accessing asylum at the border or making it harder to present their cases will lead to individuals taking [riskier routes](#) to enter the country, contributing to more border chaos.

We understand the importance to you and to the country of getting the emergency supplemental legislation passed and that extreme voices in Congress have been using this legislation to push these draconian proposals. But our families cannot and should not bear the burden and pay such a high price in these negotiations. These policies will not only significantly disrupt and undermine our economy and society, but they also run contrary to timeless American values and your own promises. We urge you to reject these terrible and inhumane proposals.

Sincerely,

Esperanza United (Formerly Casa de Esperanza National Latin@ Network)

GreenLatinos

Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar Association

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

MANA, A National Latina Organization

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Mi Familia Vota

NALEO Educational Fund

National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL)

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP)

National Latinx Psychological Association (NLPA)

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, Inc.

UnidosUS

Voto Latino