

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 24, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to follow up on our letter dated December 5, 2013. In that letter, 29 Members of Congress expressed support for an immediate suspension of deportations while the U.S. Congress considers legislation to regularize the status of the 11.7 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. today. Since then, 6 other Members of Congress have joined us and local officials from across the U.S., including Los Angeles and San Francisco, have filed resolutions in support.

As your administration nears an astounding 2 million deportations, we write again to reiterate our initial request and inquire into additional steps the White House can take to provide relief to the millions of *Americans in Waiting* who live and work among us. There is a great urgency to secure avenues for humanitarian relief for the millions of families that are currently suffering under the fear of detention and deportation and being subject to widespread violations of labor and civil rights. Embracing administrative solutions to provide categorical relief from deportation is critical to alleviate suffering today.

As a first step in providing relief and paving the way forward on the path toward reform, we call for a suspension of deportations for all immigrants placed into deportation proceedings in Arizona following the enactment of SB 1070, as well as Legal Permanent Residents deportable for criminal offenses. As the U.S. Justice Department, the federal courts, and numerous civil rights inquiries have demonstrated, there are serious questions as to the lawful nature of thousands of arrests and detentions in Arizona, including many that have already resulted in deportations. Arizona presents a specific case in which an immediate suspension of deportations should be uncontroversial.

An additional common-sense first step for widespread relief is to immediately cease issuing immigration detainers (“ICE holds”) to individuals in the custody of Arizona law enforcement agencies until section 2(b) of SB 1070 (the so-called “show-me-your-papers” section) is eliminated or enjoined by federal courts. A freeze on ICE holds in other problem jurisdictions, including Knox County in TN and Gwinnet and Cobb Counties in GA, is similarly warranted.

That the Executive branch has the authority to provide substantial relief is uncontroversial. There is a consensus in Washington that the current immigration system is inhumane and unacceptable, in addition to being wasteful and ineffective. If we act according to our principles, the first step toward a reform must be to provide humanitarian relief.

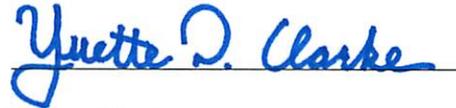
Every day that goes by is another day that one thousand people are taken away from their families and another day that we have failed in our commitments to immigrant families.

We respectfully request a response at your State of Union address. We look forward to working with you toward relief for our families.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress