Dear President Biden:

Over the past four years, our country has suffered relentless attacks on immigrants from the Trump Administration through their policies and rhetoric. Those attempts to undercut immigrants' crucial cultural and economic contributions to the United States violate our country's leading principles of Justice and Equality.

We are Gamaliel, the national organizing network that once trained Barack Obama. We uphold that our mission is to empower everyday people to participate in the political, environmental, social, and economic decisions that affect their lives, Americans, and immigrants alike.

Our Civil Rights of Immigrants campaign (CRI) is committed to working for equal opportunity and fair treatment of immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

As you begin your presidential term, we urge you to take immediate action during your first 100 Days to dismantle current oppressive policies and set the stage for Complete Inclusive Immigration Reform (CIIR) for the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants living in this country.

We are also requesting meetings with the United States Senate and House Committee Judiciary Chairs, along with soon-to-be-confirmed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Majorkas, to follow-up on your campaign promises. We would appreciate your support in securing these meetings.

Historically, undocumented immigrants in the United States have been disproportionately affected in many aspects of their everyday lives. Right now, they are increasingly vulnerable to the disparities in access to COVID-19 relief, and the ongoing effects of Trump-era policies still threaten their lives.

Undocumented immigrants have always been essential to the U.S. economy. They are part of the fabric of what makes this country exceedingly prosperous. At present, simply undoing Trump-era policies is not enough. The United States must set a new precedent that acknowledges the crucial role of immigrants and work toward a real pathway to citizenship.

Our Civil Rights of Immigrants Campaign outlines this urgent list of demands of the Biden Administration:

1. Moratorium on all deportations.
2. Free all detained immigrants who have no history of violence and/or who are at high risk from COVID-19.
3. Expand COVID-19 relief to include all undocumented essential workers.
4. Provide ALL undocumented essential workers protective status and work permits.
5. Expand and create permanent protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.
6. Create a pathway to citizenship.
7. Reverse Trump’s racist immigration policies.
   a. Remove the Public Charge Rule.
   b. Remove practice of family separation at the border.
   c. Restore family reunification as a priority in evaluating family petitions.
   d. Reinstates Temporary Protection Status (TPS).
   e. Remove the “Remain in Mexico” policy for asylum seekers.
   f. Restore application costs (Citizenship, UPR) to pre-Trump costs.
8. End the funding of private prisons that incarcerate undocumented immigrants. Close all detention centers.
9. End militarized funding of immigration enforcement.
   a. Hold ICE OIG agents accountable for abuses of power and include a quarterly accountability report.
   b. Abolish ICE from local law enforcement.
10. Address root causes of migration through financial inclusion and empowerment of remittances.
    a. Mobilize low cost remittance for savings bonds for development
    b. Invest in Sustainable employment in high migration sending communities
    c. Focus on development to address climate change roots of migration

We need your Administration to do more than just react to bad immigration policies. We need ethical and adequate policies implemented that create real opportunity for immigrants in America. Your leadership is essential to changing unjust laws and instituting a new way forward.

Earnestly,

Mr. Pablo Tapia, Chair, Gamaliel Civil Rights of Immigrants (CRI) Campaign

Rev. Dr. John C. Welch, Chair, Gamaliel Board of Directors

Ms. Ana Garcia-Arley, Executive Director, Gamaliel

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