November 19, 2026

Re: Broad Coalition Urges Democratic Leadership to Prioritize Immigration as Part of the Democracy and Affordability Agendas

Dear Leader Jeffries and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned labor, democracy, racial justice, civil rights, human rights, women's rights, and faith organizations, we urge you to rein in the Trump administration's mass deportation campaign as part of your broader agenda to hold the administration accountable, limit its authoritarian actions and address the affordability crisis. This should include:

1) A public reckoning with the administration's abuses through coordinated, cross-committee investigations.

2) A bold legislative agenda, including a path to citizenship for millions of our neighbors and loved ones; reforms to stop violence by federal agents and protect our families; and redirecting funding from the deportation machine to address affordability.

Mass Deportations Are Exacerbating the Affordability Crisis

Americans are living through an affordability crisis. Yet nearly $270 billion in federal tax dollars — or $2,358 per taxpayer — is going to a mass deportation campaign that's making the affordability crisis even worse. The money spent on mass deportations could pay for nearly 12 million people on Medicaid, paid parental leave for 6.2 million parents, or more than 925,000 school teachers, for instance. Additionally, extending full rights to millions of people through a broad path to citizenship will generate a huge economic stimulus for the nation.

Mass Deportations are Threatening Our Multiracial Democracy

Immigration agents have shot and killed Americans and attacked people recording or observing their actions, undermining civil liberties. At the same time, the administration is attempting to tear down every check on its power. This is the authoritarian playbook.

The administration is attacking the multiracial, pluralistic nature of our democracy: It tried and failed to end birthright citizenship. It imposed travel and visa bans that target people from predominantly non-white and Muslim-majority countries. It effectively shut down America's decades-old refugee program, with one exception: a fast track for white Afrikaners from South Africa.

Generations of Americans fought to create our current democracy through the abolition of slavery, the guarantee of birthright citizenship, and the civil rights movement. We cannot let those hard-fought and hard-won victories unravel under pressure from senior officials who routinely use racist imagery and dog whistles to justify their sweeping, destructive actions.

Your Commitment

The American public must have a clear account of how costly this weaponization of our immigration system has been — both to our democracy and to our pocketbooks. We urge you to give these issues the spotlight they deserve in the next Congress.

Respectfully,

American Civil Liberties Union
National Immigration Law Center
AFL-CIO
Acacia Center for Justice
Advocates for Trans Equality
African Communities Together
America's Voice
American Families United
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
Amica Center for Immigrant Rights
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Law Caucus
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Black Deported Veterans of America
Borderlands Resource Initiative
CARECEN-LA
Caring Across Generations
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Victims of Torture
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.
Christopher Street Project
Church World Service
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Cause
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Region
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Drug Policy Alliance
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Economic Policy Institute
Equality California

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
FIRM
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Frontera Federation
Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees
Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees
Haven Services
HIAS
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights First
Human Security Initiative
Human Trafficking Legal Center
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Venezuelan Alliance
Immigration Equality Action Fund
Indivisible
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti
International Refugee Assistance Project
Just Detention International
Justice + Joy National Collaborative
Justice for Migrant Women
Justice in Aging
Latin America Working Group
Latino Christian National Network
Lawyers for Good Government
League of Women Voters of the United States
Legal Defense Fund
Legal Momentum – The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
Little Lobbyists Family Alliance
Make the Road States
MomsRising
MoveOn
Multifaith Alliance
Muslim Advocates
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Social Workers
National Education Association
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund

National Network of Abortion Funds
National Partnership for New Americans
National Police Accountability Project
National Priorities Project, Institute for Policy Studies
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Political Caucus
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Organized Power in Numbers
Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Popular Democracy
Public Advocacy for Kids
Public Counsel
Refugee Advocacy Lab
Refugee Council USA
Repatriate Our Patriots
Robert & Ethel Kennedy Human Rights Center
Sexual Violence Prevention Association
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
South Asian SOAR
Southeast Asian Freedom Network
Stop AAPI Hate
Terence Crutcher Foundation
The Right to Immigration Institute/Dignidad
The Sentencing Project
The Sikh Coalition
UndocuBlack Network
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
UNITE HERE
USAHello
Vera Institute of Justice
Voto Latino
Washington Office on Latin America
Wren Collective