

November 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris:

We, the undersigned state and local elected officials, respectfully call on you to act on this unique historic opportunity to help enact legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship for many immigrants in the United States.

As elected officials committed to our constituencies, we support the request put forward by [60 grassroots immigrant organizations](#), all representing impacted memberships, for Vice President Harris to disregard the Parliamentarian's erroneous advisory opinion and enable a pathway to citizenship.

We have fought tirelessly to enact laws for immigrants at state and local levels, but there is only so much that we can do within our jurisdiction to secure the rights and livelihoods of our impacted communities.

Despite the repeated, unfortunate and misguided advice of the Senate Parliamentarian on this question, as the Presiding Officer of the Senate, it is ultimately up to you to decide whether to take action to make a pathway to citizenship possible.

As [92 legal scholars](#) have corroborated, Vice President Harris is legally authorized to reach a conclusion independent from the Senate Parliamentarian's erroneous advisory opinion, and to clear the path for Democrats to finally deliver on the promise of legalization. The Senate Parliamentarian's advisory opinion was riddled with flawed reasoning and consideration of irrelevant factors that "[made it abundantly clear how eager she was to get to 'no.' despite ample precedent and a strong rationale that would allow for the immigration proposal to be included in a reconciliation bill.](#)" Not only does a pathway to citizenship satisfy the "Byrd Rule," but it is a "[perfect fit for reconciliation.](#)"

There is both historical precedent and textual support for the Vice President to exercise their independent judgment irrespective of the Parliamentarian's advice. According to former Senate Parliamentarian Robert Dove, Vice President Nelson Rockefeller [ignored](#) the Parliamentarian's advisory opinion in 1975 and Vice President Hubert Humphrey [did so routinely](#).

This is a crucial moment, where millions of immigrants living in the United States are relying on you to take a major step towards reforming our broken immigration system, lifting the constant

fear of deportation for them and their family members and finally offering them an opportunity to fully integrate into our society.

We have a responsibility to deliver on our promises to our constituents. Aside from being the morally correct thing to do, this action would also comport with the will of the American people, 70% of whom overwhelmingly support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

We—as the undersigned state and local elected officials representing impacted constituents — have worked tirelessly at state and local levels to support Black, Brown and AAPI immigrant communities. With Democratic control of the White House, Senate, and House of Representatives, we now have the unique opportunity to deliver on a policy that over 70% of Americans strongly support—an opportunity that Democrats cannot allow an unelected Parliamentarian to derail. You, Vice President Harris, through your role as the Presiding Officer of the Senate, have the power to clear the path for legislation that will transform the lives of millions of undocumented immigrants, their families, their communities, and the entire country.

Sincerely,

Arizona

1. Rosanna Gabaldón, State Senator, Legislative District 2
2. Cesar N. Chavez, State Representative, Legislative District 29 & Vice President for Membership, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

California

1. Chance Cutrano, Town Councilmember, Town of Fairfax
2. Rebecca Garcia, Councilmember, City of Watsonville
3. Martha Camacho Rodriguez, Water Board Director, Central Basin Municipal Water District 1
4. Lisa Bennett, Executive Board Member, California Democratic Party

Colorado

1. Rachel Zenzinger, State Senator, SD 19
2. Dominick Moreno, State Senator, SD 21
3. Julie Gonzales, State Senator, SD 34
4. Steven Woodrow - State Representative HD 6
5. Karen McCormick, State Representative, HD-11
6. Chris Kennedy, State Representative HD 23
7. Brianna Titone, State Representative HD 27
8. Mike Weissman, State Representative HD 36
9. Robin Kniech, Denver City Councilwoman, At-Large

Connecticut

1. Juan Candelaria, CT State Representative, D95

Florida

1. Philippe Bien-Aimé, North Miami Mayor
2. Rachelle Litt, Mayor, City of Palm Beach Gardens
3. Herman Robinson, Vice Mayor City of Lake Worth Beach
4. Annette Taddeo, State Senator SD 40
5. Angie Nixon, State Representative HD 14
6. Anna Eskamani, State Representative HD 47
7. Carlos Guillermo Smith, State Representative HD 49
8. Marie Woodson, State Representative HD 101
9. Dale Holness, Broward County Commissioner
10. Nancy Metayer, Coral Springs Commissioner
11. Sabrina Javellana, City of Hallandale Beach Commissioner
12. Karlene Maxwell-Williams, Lauderdale Lakes Commissioner
13. Ken Russel, City of Miami Commissioner
14. Alexandra P. Davis, Miramar City Commissioner
15. Vanessa Joseph, North Miami City Clerk
16. Jack Porter, Tallahassee City Commissioner
17. Mike Gelin, Tamarac City Commissioner
18. Christopher McVoy, Lake Worth Commissioner
19. Kim Stokes, Lake Worth Beach Commissioner
20. Luisa Santos, Miami-Dade School Board Member District 9
21. Debra L Robinson MD, Palm Beach County School Board
22. Nadia B. Ahmad, Democratic National Committee Member
23. Thomas Kennedy, Democratic National Committee Member
24. Sanjay Patel, Democratic National Committee Member
25. Gregg Weiss, Palm Beach County Commissioner

Illinois

1. Robert Peters, IL State Senator, 13th district
2. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, IL State Senator, 20th district
3. Cristina Castro, IL State Senator, 22nd District
4. Karina Villa, IL State Senator, 25th District
5. Theresa Mah, IL State Representative, 2nd district
6. Delia C. Ramirez, IL State Representative, 4th District
7. Ann M. Williams, IL State Representative, 11th district
8. Denyse Wang Stoneback, IL State Representative, 16th district
9. Elizabeth Hernandez, IL State Representative, 24th District
10. Jaime Andrade Jr., IL State Representative, 40th district
11. Maura Hirschauer, IL State Representative, 49th District
12. Dagmara Avelar, IL State Representative, 85th District
13. Bridget Degnen, Cook County Commissioner, 12th district
14. Scott Britton, Cook County Commissioner, 14th district
15. Rossana Rodriguez, Chicago Alderwoman, 33rd ward

Indiana

1. Mike Andrade, State Representative, HD12

Maryland

1. Jeff Waldstreicher, Maryland Senator, D18
2. Susan Lee, Maryland Senate D16
3. Jessica Feldmark, Maryland Delegate D12
4. Jen Terrasa, Maryland Delegate D13
5. Marc Korman, Maryland Delegate D16
6. Julie Palakovich Carr, Maryland Delegate D17
7. Vaughn Stewart, Maryland Delegate D19
8. Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland Delegate D20
9. David Moon, Maryland Delegate, D20
10. Jheanelle Wilkins, Maryland Delegate, D20
11. Joseline Peña Melnyk, Maryland Delegate, D21
12. Kriselda Valderrama, Maryland State Delegate, D26
13. Gabriel Acevero, Maryland Delegate, D39
14. Lesley Lopez, Maryland Delegate, D39
15. Kirill Reznik, Maryland Delegate D39
16. Regina T. Boyce, Maryland Delegate D43
17. Shelia Ruth, Maryland Delegate D44B
18. Stephanie Smith, Maryland Delegate D45
19. Wanika B. Fisher, Maryland Delegate D47B
20. Patrick L. Wojahn, College Park Mayor
21. Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier Mayor
22. Deni Tavaras, Prince George's County Council Member D2
23. Danielle Glaros, Prince George's County Council Member D3
24. Tom Hucker, Montgomery County Council Member, D5
25. Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County Council Member D5
26. Raaheela Ahmed, Board of Education Member, District 5, Prince George's County
27. Briana Urbina, New Carrollton City Council
28. Karen Mejia, Riverdale Council Member, Ward 5

Michigan

1. Mai Xiong, Macomb County Commissioner, D2
2. Manda Harp MA, TLLP

Minnesota

1. Samantha Vang, Minnesota House of Representative, HD 40B

Nevada

1. Fabian Donate, Nevada Senate, D10
2. Howard Watts, Nevada Assemblymember, D15
3. Tick Segerblom, Clark County Commissioner, District #E

New Hampshire

1. María Pérez, D23

New Mexico

1. Andrea Romero, Representative, HD46

New York

1. Michael Gianaris, Deputy Majority Leader, NYS Senate, SD 12
2. Zellnor Myrie, NY Senator, D20
3. Andrew Gounardes, NY Senator, D22
4. Brad Hoylman, NY Senator, D27
5. Liz Krueger, NY Senator, D28
6. Robert Jackson, NY Senator, D31
7. Senator Luis R. Sepúlveda, NYS Senate, D32
8. Gustavo Rivera, NYS Senate, D33
9. Alessandra Biaggi, NYS Senate, D34
10. Jamaal T. Bailey, NYS Senator, D36
11. Samra Brouk, NYS Senate, D55
12. Fred W. Thiele, Jr., NYS Assembly, D1
13. Steve Englebright, NYS Assembly, D4
14. Andrew Hevesi, NYS Assembly D28
15. Jessica González-Rojas, NYS Assembly, AD 34
16. Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly, D36
17. Catalina Cruz, NYS Assembly, D39
18. Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, NYS Assembly AD42
19. Emily Gallagher, NYS Assembly, D50
20. Marcela Mitaynes, NYS Assembly, D51
21. Jo Anne Simon, NYS Assembly, D52
22. Phara Souffrant Forrest, NYS Assembly, D57
23. Yuh-line Niou, NYS Assembly, D65
24. Linda B. Rosenthal, NYS Assembly, D67
25. Harvey Epstein, NYS Assembly, D74
26. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly, D75
27. Nathalia Fernandez, NYS Assembly, AD 80
28. Jeffrey Dinowitz, NYS Assembly, D81
29. Kenny Burgos, NYS Assembly, D85
30. Karines Reyes, R.N., NYS Assembly, D87
31. Anna Kelles, NYS Assembly, D125
32. William Magnarelli, NYS Assembly, D129
33. Pat Burke, NYS Assembly, AD142
34. Beau A.C. Harbin, Legislator, Cortland County Legislature, LD 2, Cortland NY

North Carolina

1. Jennifer (Jenn) Weaver, Mayor of Hillsborough, NC

2. Ricky Hurtado, NC House District 63
3. John Autry, NC House District 100
4. Damon Seils, Council Member, Carrboro, NC
5. Dimple Ajmera, Charlotte City Council Member, At-Large
6. Mark D. Jerrell, Board of County Commissioners (Mecklenburg County)
7. Laura J. Meier, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
8. Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
9. Jennifer De La Jara, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

Ohio

1. Bhuwan Pyakurel, Reynoldsburg City Council Ward 3
2. Elizabeth Brown, Columbus City Council President Pro Tempore
3. Emmanuel V. Remy, Columbus City Councilmember
4. Nickie J. Antonio, Ohio Senate, District 23
5. Shammias Malik, Akron City Council Ward 8
6. Shannon Hardin, Columbus City Council President
7. Stephanie Howse, Ohio House of Representatives, District 11
8. Tavia Galonski, Ohio House of Representatives, District 35
9. Chantel Raghu, Oxford City Councilmember

Oregon

1. Floyd Prozanski, Oregon Senate District 4
2. James I. Manning, Jr., Oregon Senate District 7
3. Kate Lieber, Oregon Senate District 14
4. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward MD, Oregon Senate District 17
5. Rob Wagner, Oregon Senate District 19
6. Teresa Alonso Leon, Oregon House District 22
7. Michael Dembrow, Oregon Senate District 23
8. Kayse Jama, Oregon Senate District 24
9. Chris Gorsek, Oregon Senate District 25
10. Pam Marsh, Oregon House District 5
11. Dan Rayfield, Oregon House District 16
12. Sheri Schouten, Oregon House District 27
13. Wlinsvey Campos, Oregon House District 28
14. Susan McLain, Oregon House District 29
15. Janeen Sollman, Oregon House District 30
16. Dacia Grayber, Oregon State Representative, House District 35
17. Andrea Salinas, Oregon State Representative, House District 38
18. Rob Nosse, Oregon House District 42
19. Zach Hudson, Oregon House District 49
20. Ricki Ruiz, State Representative (HD-50)
21. Anna Williams, Oregon House District 52
22. Jason Kropf, Oregon State Representative, House District 54
23. Anthony Medina, Chair, Woodburn School Board

Pennsylvania

1. Nikil Saval, State Senator, D1
2. Emily Kinhead, Representative, D20
3. Sara Innamorato, Representative, D21
4. Peter Schweyer, Pennsylvania State Delegate, D22
5. Summer Lee, Representative, D34
6. Carol Hill-Evans, Pennsylvania Delegate, D95
7. Manny Guzman, Representative, D127
8. Mike Schlossberg, Representative, D132
9. Danielle Friel-Otten, Representative, D155
10. Joe Hohenstein, Representative D177
11. Elizabeth Fiedler, Representative, D184
12. Rick Krajewski, Representative, D188
13. Danilo Burgos, Representative, D197
14. Jared Solomon, Representative, D202
15. Ismail M. Smith-Wade-EI, City of Lancaster, Council President
16. Janet Diaz Temin, Democratic Party

Rhode Island

1. Cynthia Mendes, Senator, D18
2. Rebecca Kislak, Representative, D4
3. David Morales, Representative, D7
4. Carlos E. Tobon, Representative, D58
5. Leonela Felix, Representative, D61
6. Brianna Henries, Representative, D64

Tennessee

1. Mayor Indya Kincannon, City of Knoxville
2. Tonya Hancock, Metro Councilor of Nashville and Davidson County, District 9
3. Russ Bradford, Metro Councilmember of Nashville and Davidson County, District 13
4. Ginny Welsch, Metro Councilmember of Nashville and Davidson County, District 16
5. Colby Sledge, Metro Councilmember of Nashville and Davidson County, District 17
6. Gloria Hausser Metro Councilmember of Nashville and Davidson County, District 22
7. Robert Nash, Metro Councilmember of Nashville and Davidson County, District 27
8. Joy Styles, Metro Councilmember of Nashville and Davidson County, District 32
9. Bob Mendes, Metro Councilmember of Nashville and Davidson County, At Large

Texas

1. John Whitemire, State Senator, District 15
- 2.
3. Alex Dominguez, State Representative, HD-37
4. Eddie Morales, Jr., State Representative, H-D-74

5. Mary González, State Representative, HD-75
6. Rafael Anchía, State Representative, HD-103, Chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus
7. Gene Wu, State Representative, HD-137
8. Armando Walle, State Representative, HD-140
9. Ana Hernandez, State Representative, HD-143
10. Christina Morales, State Representative, HD-145
11. Letitia Plummer, Houston City Council Member
12. David Stout, Commissioner, Pct. 2, El Paso County
13. Iliana Holguin, Commissioner, Pct. 3, El Paso County
14. Rodney Ellis, Harris County Commissioner
15. Adrian Garcia, Harris County Commissioner

Virginia

1. Elizabeth Guzman, Virginia Delegate, D31
2. Kaye Kory, Virginia Delegate, D38
3. Paul Krizek, Virginia Delegate, D44
4. Patrick A. Hope, Virginia Delegate, D47
5. Alfonso H. Lopez, Virginia Delegate, D49
6. Sally Hudson, Virginia Delegate, D57
7. Dalia Abigail Palchik, Fairfax County Supervisor
8. Koran Saines, Vice Chairman, Supervisor Loudoun County
9. Kenny A. Boddy, Occoquan District Supervisor

Puerto Rico

1. Carmelo Ríos Santiago, PR Senate Minority Whip