

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Hon. John Cornyn
Hon. Kristen Sinema
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cornyn and Sinema:

Thank you for your leadership in introducing bipartisan legislation aimed at providing a fair and timely hearing for those arriving at our borders, particularly unaccompanied children seeking protection from persecution.

The United States has long been a beacon of hope for those who have suffered human rights abuses and who long to enjoy the same freedoms that all Americans cherish. Our asylum system has many strengths, of which we can all be proud. But a surge in new cases means that many applicants must now wait years for their cases to be heard. This keeps families in legal limbo for far too long and creates opportunities for abuse of the system.

The solution is not to cut corners on the legal protections we offer, but rather to strengthen our systems and expedite processing in a way that prioritizes service to those most in need while discouraging applications from those who do not have valid asylum claims. Your bill seeks to do this by increasing staffing and other resources, including access to counsel and translation services.

Your bill is an important first step toward a bipartisan solution to other issues and challenges, including a permanent solution for the Dreamers and long-term TPS recipients, reforming and expanding access to work visas and providing opportunities for undocumented immigrants to make restitution for past immigration violations and begin to earn legal status and eventual citizenship. Resolving these broader issues will also alleviate pressure on our asylum system. We hope and pray that your bill will lay the groundwork for additional much-needed immigration reforms.

In a polarized political context, you both deserve much credit for working together across partisan lines to serve our nation. We look forward to working with you as you continue to build support for much-needed reforms.

Sincerely,



Walter Kim
President



Galen Carey
Vice President for Government Relations