



CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

April 19, 2023

Chairman Jim Jordan
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Jerrold Nadler
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: CHIRLA Statement for the House Judiciary Markup of H.R.2640, the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023

Dear Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Nadler,

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), a statewide immigrant rights organization based in California with national impact, we write in stiff opposition to **H.R.2640**, the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023 that the House Judiciary Committee will mark up on Wednesday, April 19th.

CHIRLA strives to protect immigrants, promote family unity, and help achieve a just society fully inclusive of immigrants. Most recently, we have monitored the implementation of harmful border policies such as, the unofficial “metering system”, the initial “Remain in Mexico” policy (Migrant Protection Protocols, MPP, “Remain in Mexico”), the court-ordered re-implementation of MPP (MPP 2.0.), the failed attempt to enact an illegal asylum ban, and more recently the effective closure of the southern border using the Title 42 public health authority. CHIRLA bears witness of these policies’ impact on immigrants who intend to exercise their legal right to seek asylum – for their own protection and that of their families- in this country.

Furthermore, the bill takes and builds on Trump-era policies that are both inhumane and dangerous to immigrant families and children. Specifically, the bill would:





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1. Make significant changes to our asylum system, making it nearly impossible for migrants to seek asylum in the U.S. and significantly easier to deport asylum seekers, including families and children into harm's way;
2. Restart the failed and dangerous Remain in Mexico program for all migrants, including unaccompanied children;
3. Require family detention for any families attempting to enter the U.S. to seek asylum, as well as any families who previously entered the U.S. without visas;
4. Subject all unaccompanied children to an expedited removal process, harming children, particularly those in danger of trafficking;
5. Criminalize and penalize immigrants compelled to overstay their visa when Congress should focus on solutions that regularize the status of long-term residents by fixing our broken immigration system;
6. Eliminate the parole power that presidents historically were able to use to parole individuals in response to humanitarian emergencies or in furtherance of foreign policy objectives and preclude the President's recent parole programs for Ukrainians, Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans, as well as cut work authorization available to many parolees;
7. Mandate E-Verify for all employers in the U.S., damaging our economy, harming American workers, and resulting in billions of dollars in lost government revenue.

Migration is a fundamental human right and so is the right to seek asylum in this country. Therefore, we express deep concern and opposition to the bill and urge the House GOP to stop criminalizing immigrants and tearing families apart. The U.S. has a legal and moral obligation to welcome people with dignity, and Congress must use its time and power to restore access to asylum and rebuild an immigration system that is humane, orderly and just.

Please contact Luz Castro, Deputy Director of National Policy and Advocacy with any questions at LCastro@chirla.org

Sincerely,

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

