



October 29, 2019

The Honorable Ayanna Pressley
U.S. Congresswoman for the 7th District of Massachusetts
1108 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pressley:

Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that fosters equal opportunity and fights discrimination on behalf of people of color and immigrants. LCR engages in creative and courageous legal action, education, and advocacy in collaboration with law firms and community partners.

In Massachusetts, we have seen first-hand the full force of the Trump Administration's egregious immigration policies, and we have rapidly mobilized to protect sanctuary cities; to save humanitarian protections on behalf of Central American, Haitian, and Liberian immigrants; to reunite children with their parents in response to the family separation crisis at the border; and to block immigration arrests in courthouses.

Most recently, LCR joined forces with our community partners to file the first lawsuit in the country to protect immigrants with life-threatening medical conditions — including children with inoperable cancers — who were improperly targeted by the Trump Administration. Our work was informed directly by our experience traveling in Central America to document country conditions, including the effective nonexistence of medical treatment and care. We can, therefore, unequivocally confirm that deporting people with medical conditions is tantamount to a death sentence.

Through our work, we know that courts are a bulwark against unconstitutional and unconscionable federal action. Litigation is just one tool. We urgently need Congressional oversight to ensure that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – and all its attendant branches, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – follow the rule of law, particularly with respect to ending longstanding immigration programs and protections that have existed under both Democrats and Republicans.

Right now, our most vulnerable community members are at risk. They are illegally and improperly being targeted by federal officials based on their race, ethnicity, and national origin. Lawyers for Civil Rights urges Congress to hold these federal officials and agencies accountable, and to ensure full transparency in decision-making around immigration enforcement.

Respectfully submitted,

Iván Espinoza-Madrugal, Esq.
Executive Director

61 BATTERYMARCH STREET • 5TH FLOOR • BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 988-0624 (TELEPHONE) • (617) 482-4392 (FAX)
WWW.LAWYERSFORCIVILRIGHTS.ORG