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March 24, 2026

Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Marcos Charles
Acting Executive Associate Director
Enforcement and Removal Operations
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

The Honorable Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear President Trump, Secretary Mullin, Acting Director Charles, and Acting Director Lyons:

Over the last year, we have seen a growing pattern by this Administration to unjustly operate outside the norms of the law and take a rogue approach towards immigration enforcement. For example, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients are facing growing delays in renewal processing, resulting in a lapse of their protections status after years of timely compliance, which ultimately presents an opportunity for immigration officials to detain them. These individuals are our friends, family, and neighbors who hold work authorization, contribute to our communities, strive to build stable lives, and have often lived in our country much longer than their nation of origin. Therefore, I am asking for the immediate release of DACA constituents that have been detained and are going through their application renewal or ongoing immigration processes.

Concurrently, asylum seekers awaiting decisions from a judge are also being apprehended at alarming rates, despite having a right to remain in the United States while their claim for protection is pending. Rather than allowing the legal process to play out, the Administration is apprehending individuals with no criminal history, forcing them into detention or pressuring them toward self-deportation. This undermines the intent of the immigration system, which allows qualifying individuals to live and work while their cases are adjudicated.

As a Member of Congress that represents a border district in South Texas, I support strong border protections and the Administration's efforts to remove violent and dangerous criminals who threaten our communities. However, these cases represent a troubling example of this Administration's enforcement priorities gone too far. Americans do not want their taxpayer dollars

and federal resources directed towards the punitive targeting of hardworking families that have done everything asked of them under our immigration system.

Recently, we saw the Gamez-Cuellar family detained for going to their immigration appointment, a routine part of the process, as they await a decision on their asylum case. Just like them, Mr. Juan Sebastian Chavez and Mr. Jahasiel Pena Enriquez were waiting for their DACA renewal when they were detained. South Texans believe in the rule of law, but we also believe our immigration policy should be rooted in fairness, dignity, and common sense. These individuals and so many others have contributed to our community and demonstrated a willingness to follow our country's legal processes. I therefore call on you to exercise prosecutorial discretion to ensure the prompt release of Juan Sebastian Chavez and Jahasiel Pena Enriquez.

I ask that you consider this request in accordance with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and guidelines. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Senior Outreach Coordinator, Victor Garza at Victor.Garza@mail.house.gov or (956) 682-5545 or (202) 225-2531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VG' followed by a stylized name.

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress