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September 9, 2020

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The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler:

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we respectfully urge the Committee on the Judiciary to consider and markup H.R. 557, "Protect Patriot Spouses Act". This critical legislation has been endorsed by the CHC and will render military spouses eligible for adjustment status and help prevent American families from being separated due to harsh immigration policies. Since the initial introduction of this legislation in 2018, Rep. Soto's constituent, Alejandra Juarez, alongside many other military families, faced the harsh reality of this administration's zero-tolerance immigration policies and was deported to Mexico. We cannot let another day go by and allow this administration to continue to tear families apart; the time to act is now.

As recently highlighted on a national scale, the Juarez family faced the heartbreaking reality of family separation under Trump's zero-tolerance policy. Central Florida resident Sgt. Temo Juarez, an Iraq combat veteran who served in the Marines and the Infantry Regiment of the Army National Guard, was separated from his wife Alejandra Juarez after she was deported to Mexico after 20 years living in the United States and raising their two U.S. born daughters Pamela, 19, and Estela, 11.

Unfortunately, the story of the Juarez family is not singular. At least 350,000 American citizens are married to foreign-born spouses who may face significant challenges under US immigration law. Of those, it is estimated that nearly 20,000 active U.S. military service members are dealing with a spouse or family member who is facing deportation. While military spouses are not active on the battlefield, they serve alongside our military personnel by ensuring they have a home and family to rejoin after service deployments.

We appreciate your continued leadership in supporting military families and urge you to consider bringing the Protect Patriot Spouses Act to a markup. We must take swift action to ensure another American family is not torn apart by this administration's harsh immigration policies. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joaquin Castro". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Joaquin Castro
Chairman, Congressional Hispanic Caucus

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Darren Soto
Member of Congress