



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

I am grateful for your commitment to undo the harm posed on immigrant communities across the nation by the previous administration's zero-tolerance immigration policies. These policies have significantly impacted constituents in my district, such as the Juarez family, a military family who faced the heartbreaking reality of family separation when Alejandra Juarez, the wife of a U.S. Marine veteran, was deported to Mexico in 2018 after living in the United States for 20 years and raising their two U.S. born daughters.

Attached you will find two letters from the Juarez family outlining their request for Alejandra to be granted humanitarian parole to reenter the United States and be reunited with her family. I respectfully ask that you give their request for parole your full and fair consideration.

We appreciate your continued leadership in supporting immigrant and military families and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Mr. President, We Are More Alike Than Different

Dear President Biden,

I hope you remember me. My name is Estela Juarez. I am 11 years old and live in Davenport, Fla. I was in a video that was played at the Democratic National Convention last summer. I read a letter to President Trump, asking him to let my mother come back to the U.S. to live with me, my sister and my father. I sent him two letters in the last few years, but he never answered. I am praying you will. I know you're a busy person, but I thought you might because we have some things in common.

My father served his country as a soldier, like your son Beau. He enlisted in the Marines right after high school. When he finished his tour in the Marines, he re-enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves. Like Beau, he was deployed to Iraq. And like your son's wife, my mom took care of our family and everything else at home all the time he was gone.

I think you would like my mom. I know she came to the U.S. illegally, which was wrong, but she was a teenager and all alone when she saw a crime and had to run away to save herself. She is brave and strong. She met my dad and they fell in love and got married. She lived here for 20 years, building a family and a home, working hard and paying taxes. But then President Trump's zero tolerance immigration policy forced her to leave. I lived with her for a little while in Mexico while my dad and sister stayed here, but it was hard. Now, I am back in Florida. I'm in sixth grade. I miss my mom. My dad keeps telling us to have faith that our family will be united again. He has taught all of us to be strong, and we are. But no one can be strong all the time, forever. My mom has been gone almost three years.

Now another holiday season has passed. It has become the saddest part of the year. My mom used always to listen to music and sing along when she cooked for the holidays. Now when I walk by our kitchen, it is quiet. There is no smell of her vegetable soup filling the house, making me hungry.

Ever since my Mom left, I have a hole in my heart. I know you have one, too. I am deeply sorry about the loss of your son. I wish you didn't have to go through such loss. I feel blessed that my mother is still alive. I see her every day when we video chat. I can see her face and talk to her, but I cannot touch her, hug her or feel her arms around me. My dad told me that he is hoping that as president, you will reunite my family by asking the Department of Homeland Security to grant my mom humanitarian parole. This would allow her to return to Florida. My family has prayed that you would become president. I am praying with all my heart that you will help her come home.

I believe you are a good man. When I spoke at the convention last summer, I told the country that we needed a President who wanted to keep families together, not tear them apart. I know you will bring us together. I have hope that you will do everything within your power to help me and my family. I know you have endured loss and pain and that you really understand the deep

sadness that missing someone causes. I need my mother. My whole family does. Please help me, my father and my sister. Bring my mom back home as soon as possible so we can be a family again!

Love,

Estela Juarez

Dear President Biden,

My name is Alejandra Juarez. I want to congratulate you on your election to become the next President of the United States. Our family is hopeful again for the first time since we were ripped apart by the immigration policies of the previous president and his administration more than two years ago.

I am the wife of an Iraq War veteran who served honorably on multiple tours as an infantryman in the U.S. Marines and in the Army National Guard and together we have two beautiful U.S.-born daughters. In late 2018 I was deported to Mexico after living in the United States for 20 years. I was sent away from my family and from the home and life my husband and I built.

My husband, Sgt. Temo Juarez, risked his life in combat to fight for the United States. While he was deployed, I stayed home in Florida, caring for our daughters and being a strong support to him. It was a trying time, but we pulled together as military families do. These past two years of family separation have created a terrible trauma for our family. Pamela is now 19 and Estela 11, and they too have been forever scarred by this nightmare.

Mr. President, I know I was wrong to cross the border illegally in 1998 when I was 18, and I met every six months with immigration officials, hoping to find a path toward remaining in the United States. I never skipped an appointment or posed a danger to my community and from the day I arrived in the United States, I upheld the laws and values of this country. It is my home. Yet the Trump administration chose to send me away, tearing apart our American family.

Thankfully, your election has brought hope to many mothers like me. You have shown support for immigrant and military families. In fact, my daughter Estela was featured in your Democratic National Convention video about your promise to immigrant families. She also has a book coming out about her ordeal titled "Until Someone Listens." Please be that someone, Mr. President. We need a U.S President who brings families together. We are putting our faith in your promise for a more just way forward.

Please help me reunite with my family by granting me a humanitarian parole to reenter the United States and hopefully, one day become naturalized.

Mr. President, I know that you are a good man who wants what is best for the United States of America, the country our family has served honorably. My American husband and children need me. I humbly ask you to help me go home.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Juarez