

CONCERNING NEEDED FEDERAL AND STATE ACTION
TO CREATE A PATH FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS,
ARACELI VELASQUEZ, INGRID ENCALADA LATORRE,
ROSA SABIDO AND SANDRA LOPEZ

WHEREAS Immigration and Customs Enforcement is focusing its extensive resources on the State of Colorado with the second highest deportation rate in the country, with ICE detentions and arrests doubling in Colorado and Wyoming in FY17

WHEREAS Colorado families, businesses and local communities are experiencing crisis due to inaction at the federal level

WHEREAS the more than 71,000 US citizen children whose parents are undocumented Coloradans are powerless to apply for relief

WHEREAS the bi-partisan Colorado delegation has a responsibility to work towards solutions and to recognize the contributions of these four women to their communities.

WHEREAS our current immigration policies barred a path to legal residency for four Colorado women who represent thousands of other residents of the State of Colorado

WHEREAS all four women have complied with all requested of them by our immigration system, short of deportation, and participated to the fullest extent in the life of Colorado;

WHEREAS all four women are engaged in extraordinary sacrifice by claiming Sanctuary to keep their families together and remain in their communities

WHEREAS all four women have significant and widespread support across Colorado for their significant contributions to our community

WHEREAS Araceli Velasquez arrived to the US seeking asylum in 2010 and faces direct threat to her life if forced to return to El Salvador; she and her husband Jorge are raising three US citizen children, Jorge Jr (5), Christopher (3) and Kevin (14 months); her previous lawyers did not sufficiently prepare her asylum defense; ICE denied her stay application in 2017,

AND

Current law does not allow her husband, who has Temporary Protected Status to apply for her or adjust his status and current law does not allow her to apply through her minor children

WHEREAS Ingrid Encalada Latorre has lived in the Colorado more than half her life, arriving at age 17 in 2001; she and her partner Eliseo are raising two US citizen children - Bryant (9) and Anibal (2); Ingrid is a well-known leader across the country and the state; and her only infraction has been to work to sustain herself and; even though she completed all restitution and rehabilitation required of her and has expressed deep remorse for the impacts of our laws on the person impacted, her deportation continued,

AND

Current law does not include a path for Ingrid to apply for status through her minor children nor through her citizen aunt; It is inhumane to further punish people beyond the penalties imposed by the criminal justice system and a 1996 law (IIRIRA) removed the power of discretion from immigration judges to consider evidence of actual personal character, closing a path to status for mothers like Ingrid; and IIRIRA is a failed and inhumane experiment, depriving fairness to so many like Ingrid.

WHEREAS Sandra Lopez has lived in the United States continuously since 2001; Sandra is a well-known member of Roaring Fork Valley community in Colorado, living here with her husband and raising their three US citizen children Areli (2) and Edwin (13), and her oldest son Alex (18), who is attending his first year at Mesa State University in Grand Junction studying mechanics; and Sandra's deportation began with a wrongful arrest when one of her young kids dialed 911 and hung up; all charges were immediately dropped; local police reported Sandra to ICE and ICE refused to grant her last stay of deportation

AND

current law does not allow Sandra to apply through her minor children and immigration proceedings continue against people even when charges are dropped or they are found innocent and there is no path to status for long term residents of Colorado,

WHEREAS Rosa Sabido has lived the vast majority of the last 28 years in Colorado with her citizen step-father and mother; Rosa is well-known and a fixture in southwest Colorado between her catering business and as a pool secretary for the Catholic Church; Rosa is the main support for her aging citizen parents; Rosa complied with the terms of ICE's Order of Supervision between 2008 and 2017 and received Stays of Removal between 2011 and 2017. This year, without explanation, ICE denied her 7th application for a Stay,

AND

Rosa has been the approved beneficiary of her mother's immigration petition since 2001, but current law has delayed her mother's application for her by 17 years; Rosa is now classified in the Family Based Preference Category 1, as the adult unmarried daughter of a US citizen. Based on the limited number of visas set by Congress for each immigrant category and the number of petitions ahead of her, it will still be many years before Rosa will be able to apply for lawful permanent residence based on her mother's petition for her.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED RESIDENTS OF COLORADO,
ELECTED OFFICIALS, FAITH LEADERS AND
BUSINESSES CALL ON THE COLORADO
LEGISLATURE, THE GOVERNOR AND THE COLORADO
DELEGATION TO RESPOND TO

Araceli Velasquez who claimed Sanctuary five months ago at Park Hill United Methodist Church and Temple Micah to state keep her family together and show she belongs here,

Ingrid Encalada Latorre who began publicly fighting her case in November of 2016 and is currently in Sanctuary at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder to keep her family together, show she belongs here

Rosa Sabido who claimed Sanctuary on at Mancos United Methodist Church to remain with her aging parents and show she belongs here,

Sandra Lopez who began publicly fighting her deportation years ago, claimed Sanctuary at the Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist Parsonage in Carbondale to keep her family together and state she belongs here

BY USING THE AUTHORITY OF THEIR OFFICE TO
PROVIDE OFFICIAL MERCY AND SUPPORT TO ALL FOUR
WOMEN, TO ENACT POLICY CHANGES AT THE STATE
AND FEDERAL LEVEL ALLOWING ALL COLORADO
RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WELL BEING OF
OUR STATE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR A
PATH TO STATUS BY TAKING STEPS TO VALUE THE
TAPESTRY OF OUR COMMUNITIES, THE UNITY OF OUR
FAMILIES AND OUR HUMANITY AND TAKE STEPS SUCH
AS THE BELOW TO CREATE A PATHWAY TO
CITIZENSHIP FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE:

AS A COLORADO DELEGATION WORK TO

Create a path for all Temporary Protected Status/DACA holders to legal permanent residency and beyond,

Maintain our commitment to human rights by protecting asylum seekers,

Restore paths to legal permanent residency for parents of U.S. citizen children by repealing IRIRA,

Restore paths to citizenship by giving back to judges the discretion to consider personal character by repealing IRIRA,

Create a transparent and timely path, fulfilling our promise to families, by eliminating quotas that mean decades of waiting for millions of parents and their children.

AS THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO

Uphold our constitution and require Immigration and Customs Enforcement to show a judicial warrant in Colorado before receiving information about or detaining people,

Allow for equal access to the justice system, meant to serve all Colorado residents, by creating a bright line between law enforcement and ICE, including between Immigration and Customs Enforcement and probation.

Safeguard Coloradans against IRIRA's devastating double jeopardy and deportation impacts through public advocacy and mercy.