



October 8, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Honorable Kamala D. Harris
President and Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

As Governors representing millions of Americans, we write to express our strong concern over the lack of coordination and sharing of information from the Biden-Harris Administration regarding its ongoing Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV) asylum program directly affecting our states and local communities. We believe the merits of the CHNV program are misguided and administration of the program has been abused.

On January 5, 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced its “Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans” program through which “nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, and their immediate family members, may request to come to the United States in a safe and orderly way. Qualified beneficiaries who are outside the United States and lack U.S. entry documents may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for advanced authorization to travel and a temporary period of parole for up to two years for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.”¹

Furthermore, “To participate, eligible beneficiaries must: Have a supporter in the United States; Undergo and clear robust security vetting; Meet other eligibility criteria; and Warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.”²

¹ Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans
<https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>

² Ibid

As a result, DHS has reported that “Through the end of August 2024, nearly 530,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans arrived lawfully on commercial flights and were granted parole under these processes. Specifically, more than 111,000 Cubans; nearly 214,000 Haitians; more than 96,000 Nicaraguans; and nearly 121,000 Venezuelans were vetted and authorized for travel, while more than 110,000 Cubans; more than 210,000 Haitians; nearly 93,000 Nicaraguans; and nearly 117,000 Venezuelans arrived lawfully and were granted parole.”³

The impact of this “parole” process has been a sudden influx of foreign nationals throughout our states and communities. The unexplainable lack of any communication from your administration over arrival times, duration of residency, legal status, and location of these “parolees” has created considerable confusion and alarm among local officials and the general public. In the absence of direction from DHS, law enforcement and municipal leaders have often been left to rely upon news reports and social media posts to determine size and location of incoming migrant populations in order to assess what impact they may have on already limited government services including local public schools.

The apparent dumping of migrants into our cities and small towns with no advance notice has not only sowed mistrust and fear among the public, but it has also placed the migrants themselves at potential of physical harm. After being met with understandable skepticism from the communities in which they are now living, migrants have become fearful to interact with the public. This isolation has created a ripe environment for their exploitation and abuse.

Indeed, the CHNV program was temporarily suspended in July due to reports of fraud and abuse.⁴ The program was reinstated in August reportedly after more thorough vetting procedures were put in place.⁵ Given the volume of migrants now allowed to enter and travel freely within the United States under the CHNV program, it is difficult to believe that every potential for fraud and abuse has been eliminated in one month’s time. Therefore, the burden to protect the migrants now rests with state and local governments. Without information about the migrants’ sponsors or the location and employment status of migrants, state and local law enforcement are extremely limited in their abilities to investigate potential exploitation of migrants and the possibility of their victimization from human trafficking.

As chief executives of our states directly responsible for the safety of our citizens and those who reside within our borders, we require a full accounting from the Biden-Harris Administration and DHS of the location and legal status of the parolee populations in our states. We further require information about the “robust security vetting” DHS claims to have undertaken on each parolee, and we ask for the names and locations of the sponsors who have been granted guardianship over

³ CHNV Parole Processes

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-august-2024-monthly-update>

⁴ “U.S. pauses migrant sponsorship program due to fraud concerns” CBS News, August 2, 2024

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-migrant-sponsorship-program-paused-cuba-haiti-nicaragua-venezuela/>

⁵ “Biden administration to restart immigration program that was paused over fraud concerns” NBC News, August 29, 2024

<https://www.nbcnews.com/investigations/biden-admin-restart-chnv-immigration-program-paused-fraud-concern-rcna168838>

the parolees. We also ask what system DHS has in place to monitor migrants and their sponsors and what assistance DHS is providing migrants.

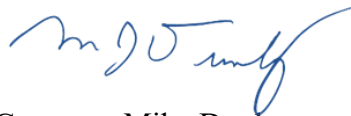
Due to the Biden-Harris Administration's CHNV program's policy of placing hundreds of thousands of migrants in our states, and potentially in need of state and local services, our states have unwittingly been placed a support role without our consent, any advance notice or resources. Accordingly, we request your administration furnish our states complete information about the location and status of migrants being directed to our communities.

Thanking you in advance for your timely response to this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Governor Kay Ivey
State of Alabama



Governor Mike Dunleavy
State of Alaska



Governor Sarah Sanders
State of Arkansas



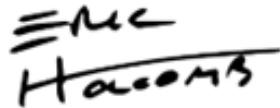
Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida



Governor Brian Kemp
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Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho



Governor Eric Holcomb
State of Indiana



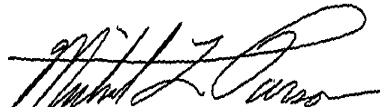
Governor Kim Reynolds
State of Iowa



Governor Jeff Landry
State of Louisiana



Governor Tate Reeves
State of Mississippi



Governor Mike Parson
State of Missouri



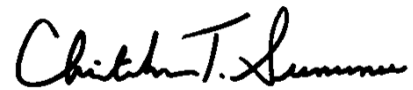
Governor Greg Gianforte
State of Montana



Governor Jim Pillen
State of Nebraska



Governor Joe Lombardo
State of Nevada



Governor Chris Sununu
State of New Hampshire



Governor Doug Burgum
State of North Dakota

Governor Kevin Stitt
State of Oklahoma



Governor Henry McMaster
State of South Carolina



Governor Kristi Noem
State of South Dakota

Governor Bill Lee
State of Tennessee



Governor Greg Abbott
State of Texas



Governor Spencer Cox
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Governor Glenn Youngkin
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