

KRISTINE HOWARD, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 28, 2020

Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
1218 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Houlahan,

I implore you to call on the Department of Homeland Security to halt immigration enforcement activities as we deal with the growing threat of the global coronavirus epidemic.

It is estimated that nearly 200,000 undocumented immigrants call Pennsylvania home. That is an enormous swath of the population. An enormous swath of the population unlikely to seek medical treatment for fear of legal repercussions and deportation.

Like it or not, these people are a part of the community. They interact with the world just like everybody else. So it would seem fairly obvious that they could carry and spread this deadly virus just like everyone else.

Further, undocumented workers comprise an estimated 10% of the food service industry, where the risk of transmitting the virus is unimaginable and unacceptable.

Allowing people to live in fear not only jeopardizes their own health, but the health of every individual in the state, the nation, and the world.

Steps must be taken immediately to ensure everyone, documented and undocumented, have access to medical care. The health and safety of literally everyone must supersede immigration concerns at this time. Lives – yours, mine, our children's – depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine C. Howard".

Rep. Kristine Howard
167th Legislative District

CC: Sen. Tom Casey
Sen. Pat Toomey