



July 28th, 2021

Hon. Joseph R. Biden, President  
United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Hon. Kamala D. Harris, Vice President  
United State of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Terminate ICE contract at the Berks County Residential Center**

Dear Mr. President & Madam Vice President:

As elected leaders representing the communities of Pennsylvania, we ask the White House and the Department of Homeland Security to terminate the contract between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Berks County in order to end the federal use of the Berks County Residential Center (BCRC).

On the morning of February 26, 2021, we celebrated that all the previously-detained families were freed to their loved ones and sponsors. This is the first time in many years that the BCRC has stood without detained immigrant families within its walls. We believe that this decision is only the first step towards ending family detention once and for all in this country. Incarcerating immigrants - whether they be families, children, or individual adults - is cruel, inhumane, abusive, unnecessary and immoral. It is a violation not only of American civil liberties but also of international human rights.

We unequivocally stand against new plans to detain, process, incarcerate, or subject immigrant women or any other people to federal actions within the facility. We know that in other detention centers for women, such as the T. Don Hutto Detention Center (Hutto), there has been pervasive sexual abuse, retaliation, medical neglect, and nutritional deprivation. Women in Hutto have been subjected to further inhumane treatment, isolation and separation from family and community.

Hutto Detention Center was once a family detention center. Following the exposure of the atrocious abuses that happened against families there, it was transitioned into a detention center for immigrant women. This did not stop abuse at the facility; it only changed who was subject to harm. Every human being, regardless of color, race, and immigration status, deserves respect, dignity and equality. All detained refugee families and persons deserve freedom.

To reiterate, we ask that the White House and Department of Homeland Security terminate the contract with ICE and Berks County and discontinue any use of the Berks County Residential Center so that this facility can be repurposed for the benefit of the Berks County community.

Most respectfully,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Guzman, Jr.'.

Manuel Guzman, Jr.  
State Representative 127th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith L. Schwank'.

Judith L. Schwank  
State Senator- 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Democratic Caucus Administrator

Cc: Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security



Wayne Fontana  
State Senator- 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
Democratic Caucus Chairman



Maria Collett  
State Senator- 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Democratic Caucus Secretary



Katie Muth  
State Senator- 44<sup>th</sup> District  
Democratic Policy Chair



Amanda Cappelletti  
State Senator- 17<sup>th</sup> District



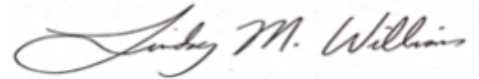
Tim Kearney  
State Senator- 26<sup>th</sup> District



Nikil Saval  
State Senator- 1<sup>st</sup> District



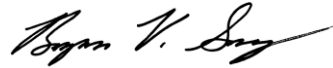
Christine Tartaglione  
State Senator- 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Lindsay Williams  
State Senator- 44<sup>th</sup> District



Rep. Brian Sims  
182<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Benjamin Sanchez  
153<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County



Rep. Rick C. Krajewski  
188<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



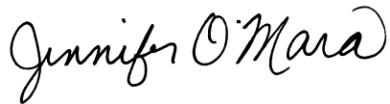
Rep. Melissa Shusterman  
157<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester/Montgomery Counties



Rep. Mike Schlossberg  
132<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania



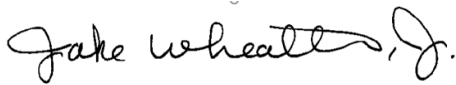
Rep. Carol Hill-Evans  
95<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
York County



Rep. Jennifer O' Mara  
165<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Delaware County



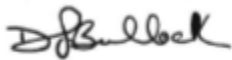
Rep. Jessica L. Benham  
36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Allegheny County



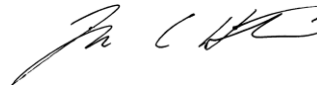
Rep. Jake Wheatley, Jr.  
19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Allegheny County



Rep. Christopher M. Rabb  
200<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Donna Bullock  
195<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Joseph Hohenstein  
177<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Sara Innamorato  
21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Allegheny County



Rep. Nancy Guent  
152<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery/Philadelphia Counties



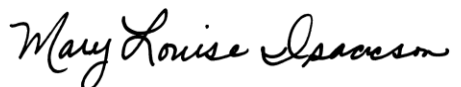
Rep. Danielle Friel Otten  
155<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester County



Rep. Pete Schweyer  
22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
Lehigh County



Rep. Christina D. Sappey  
158<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester County



Rep. Mary-Louise Isaacson  
175<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Mary Jo Daley  
148<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County



Rep. Joseph G. Webster  
150<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County




Rep. Liz Hanbidge  
61<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County



Rep. Dan B. Frankel  
Democratic Chairman, Health Committee  
23rd Legislative District  
Allegheny County



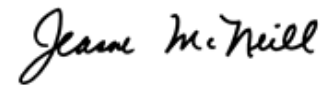
Rep. Summer L. Lee  
34<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Allegheny County



Rep. Kristine C. Howard  
167<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester County



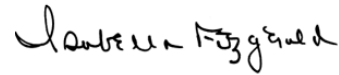
Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta  
181<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Jeanne McNeill  
133<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District  
Lehigh County



Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler  
184<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald  
203<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



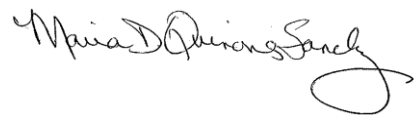
Rep. Stephen Kinsey  
201<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Philadelphia County



Rep. Tim Briggs  
149<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County



Hon. Helen Gym  
Philadelphia Councilmember At-Large



Hon. Maria Quinoñes Sanchez  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Philadelphia City Council



Hon. Eddie Moran  
Mayor, City of Reading



Hon. Kendra Brooks  
City Councilmember At-Large



Hon. Katherine Gilmore Richardson  
Councilmember At-Large



Hon. Mark Squilla  
City Councilmember, 1st Council District



Hon. Kenyatta Johnson  
City Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> Council District



Hon. Jamie Gauthier  
City Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> Council District



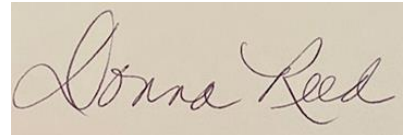
Hon. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz  
City Council Member, Reading, PA



Hon. Cherelle Parker  
City Councilmember, 9th Council District



Hon. Allan Domb  
Councilmember At-Large



Hon. Donna Reed  
Councilmember, City of Reading