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Office of the Governor

April 20, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President:

As Governor of the Great State of Nevada, I know firsthand the immeasurable contributions immigrants make to our culture, society, and economy. I've always said Nevada's diversity as a majority-minority state should be celebrated. That's why in 2019 we created Nevada's first ever Office for New Americans to ensure those wishing to call Nevada home have the resources needed to be successful and it is why I signed legislation like the Keep Nevada Working Act and enacted the English Language Learners Bill of Rights to provide everyone - regardless of their immigration status and despite any language barriers - the same path to prosperity.

To ensure every immigrant has the same opportunity to succeed in our society, it is imperative we pass federal comprehensive immigration reform. In addition to this, today I am writing to express my concern regarding your administration's intention to roll back Title 42 without a detailed plan in place.

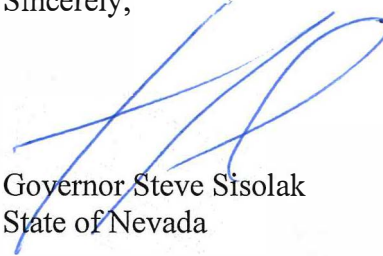
Enacted in March 2020, Title 42 is first and foremost a public health measure that provides U.S. border officials the right to deny migrants entry in order to mitigate a contagious disease. To be clear: asylum seekers and migrants hoping to legally immigrate to the United States should be afforded every proper opportunity to do so, and as COVID-19 enters the endemic stage with vaccines and testing readily available, it is time to reevaluate the public health measures in place. However, lifting Title 42 without a measured, comprehensive plan would create chaos at our border and make it more onerous for families attempting to immigrate legally. Our country cannot undergo another humanitarian crisis at the U.S - Mexico border. Rolling back this policy without a comprehensive mitigation plan in place should not be our path forward.

While some progress has been made, meaningful immigration reform has stalled for many years under various administrations and Nevadans cannot wait any longer. Many Dreamers, for example, are nearing their 40s and deserve—at the very least—peace of mind regarding their citizenship status. As governor of a state that is home to approximately 4,000 Temporary Protected Status holders, 12,000 Dreamers, and more than 5,000 people impacted by a green card backlog, I urge the administration to prioritize a pathway to citizenship that supports families and our economy without putting unnecessary burdens on our immigration system. They've waited long enough.

I understand this is an effort that cannot be resolved by the White House alone, which is why I am proud of Nevada's Democratic Federal delegation who remain outspoken advocates for meaningful immigration reform.

I am asking you, Mr. President, to reconsider any intentions of undoing Title 42 until there is a comprehensive plan for how the United States can avoid the humanitarian crisis this policy change would spark. Together, we need to work to ensure the United States can be a welcoming, inclusive nation with opportunities for all.

Sincerely,



Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada

CC: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
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The Honorable Dr. Rochelle Walensky
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