



July 20, 2022

The Honorable Mark Kelly
2201 E. Camelback Rd
Suite 115
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dear Senator Kelly,

My name is Tony Renteria and I am Chairman of Poder Latino – a group of Latino community, faith and business leaders representing Latinos nationally – many of whom reside in the Southwest, including Arizona.

We are writing to ask you to fix our immigration system and stop the push to have open borders. We know you see as we do, what is happening at the border and that American's security is at risk because of record border crossings.

There are already an estimated over 12 million people with unresolved immigration cases in this country. American want safer borders. Yet, illegal border crossings have been hitting record numbers. The Border Patrol is processing around 7,000 people every day. This is the time to improve the U.S. immigration system, not throw it away. We are already the most generous country in the world when it comes to immigration.

We were encouraged to see you admit there is “a crisis on our Southern Border” and that you told Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas the Administration's response was “unacceptable.” We are respectfully asking you to support a viable solution, accountability and to push back on open borders.

We want to fix immigration. Most Americans recognize that immigrants come here for [jobs and to improve their lives](#), but the majority worry that a broken immigration system could create too many demands on government services. According to a [Pew study](#), most Americans (69%) believe there should be a way for undocumented immigrants who are now living in the U.S. to stay in the country legally if certain requirements are met. That can't happen with open borders.

A push to abolish ICE. It seems progressives want to do away with all immigration policies and abolish ICE. Many criticize our country's immigration system as a “[mass deportation and incarceration state](#),” which is far from the truth. Their ultimate goal is to persuade you and your colleagues to establish open borders.

There are groups telling misleading and inaccurate stories as part of their campaign for open borders including Just Futures Law, Community Justice Exchange, and Mijente. We do not share their views.

These three organizations make claims that are unverified. They are suing the government over data collected on illegal immigrants who have been released from custody, but are monitored through [SmartLINK mobile monitoring](#) and other technology, while they await their court hearings. As you know, ICE owns the data and complies with all federal laws.



As their past statements make clear, the real goal of these groups is to eradicate all immigration laws.

- Just Futures Law – “disrupt and dismantle our deportation and mass incarceration systems” and “ends local involvement in immigration enforcement and the laws of prosecuting border entry.”
- Community Justice Exchange – “We are fighting to end the deportation and detention system...ending the surveillance of immigrant communities, and supporting the right to migrate.”
- Mijente – ICE funding is “dumping, dropping, flushing all this money down the toilet.”

Immigration alternatives preserve the law. The U.S. has common sense rules and laws that benefit current citizens as well as future U.S. citizens. When too many people overwhelm the system, it can break down and the most vulnerable can fall through the cracks as we are witnessing today. ICE has a special process – the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) – that helps non-violent, law-abiding immigrants seeking a home in America. If they are selected and follow the rules, they are able to live in a community and establish themselves while they wait for an immigration judge to rule. This is a humane alternative to detention.

ISAP is an alternative to detention that works.

- Before ISAP, only 11% complied with final orders issued by Immigration Judges
- Those in ISAP have a + 95% compliance rate with release and reporting conditions
- Participants work with Case Managers to receive wraparound stabilization services and are treated with dignity, fairness and respect
- ISAP is more cost-effective than detention

Some progressives criticize this as “government surveillance” because people are required to check-in using a special electronic device. The majority of the people in ISAP are given a communications device that looks like a smartphone, but doesn’t have the capabilities of a smartphone. It’s called SmartLINK. Only about 13% of participants – those considered the highest risk of breaking the rules – are monitored with an ankle bracelet.

- SmartLINK doesn’t browse the internet or download apps, send or receive texts or make calls.
- It keeps participants in touch with their case managers through a special application.
- It keeps them informed about upcoming appointments.
- It helps them access court documents and community resources for housing, medical care and other essential services that add stability to their lives.
- 95% of those in the program show up to their court date.

ISAP recently had broad political support, but some liberals shifted further to the left. Just a couple of years ago, Democratic candidates [campaigned on a platform](#) that would “prioritize investments in more effective and cost-efficient community-based alternatives to detention.” Since it began, ISAP’s court appearance rate has been over 95%, meaning most all of those in the program are showing up for Immigration Court. That proves how such rules-based systems work.

But, open borders advocates are now seeking to dismantle ICE and abolish effective programs like ISAP. They talk about replacing compliance-based programs with [opt-in community support](#). That idea will



overload communities and make it tougher for service programs to help immigrants get settled, find doctors and schools for their children, and be sure they have food, clothes and housing.

When immigrants come to this country, they make an impact on all communities, especially the Latino community. We believe in having a welcoming country based on legal immigration. Let's keep our borders safe and secure and have an open door to legal immigration, not an open border to illegal immigration.

We believe in developing and promoting leadership in the Latino community to advance free-enterprise principals through advocacy and educational activities. There are over 50 million Americans of Hispanic descent and they represent a treasure of American society and uphold the best values of hard work, faith, community and family. We fought to protect Dreamers with a permanent solution for DACA and we support the rule of law, including humane alternatives to detention through ISAP.

We implore you, Senator Kelly, please join us in supporting safe borders, alternatives to detention centers and fixing our immigration system? We look forward to your response and being in touch with your office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Renteria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Tony Renteria
Chairman
Poder Latino