

September 27, 2013

RE: Request for Humanitarian Parole

Dear Colleague,

I write to request that the individuals listed below be granted humanitarian parole in a favorable exercise of discretion.

Each came to the U.S. as a child and became integrated into their communities. They were educated in the U.S. and grew up here with their U.S. citizen peers and siblings. They had hoped to remain in the U.S. with their families and friends, but for various reasons relocated to their country of origin, some weeks or even days before President Obama's announcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program on June 15, 2012. Because of this, they became ineligible for DACA.

Some were misinformed that they would be able to return to the U.S. through lawful channels, and many have attempted to do so. However, none have been able to return to the U.S. They watched as their undocumented peers and family members applied for and received DACA and were able to pursue educational and career opportunities which had previously been unobtainable.

Now these individuals find themselves in an unfamiliar country they left as children, isolated from family and friends, and under threat of harm for reasons they are unable to control. They have been uprooted from their homes in the U.S. All they wish is to return to their lives in this country.

Here follows a summary of each individual's history and achievements in the U.S.:

- **Sandra Jara** lived in California for nearly 13 years. She graduated from Alhamba High School with a 3.36 GPA. In 2004 she graduated from Pasadena City College with an associate's degree in applied and liberal arts studies. Sandra has always been active in her community, while in college she worked with the LGBT community as president of the United Rainbow Alliance providing young people with a safe place to talk about their concerns and fears. Ms. Jara is an avid photographer, winning numerous awards; she is an asset to her community.
- **Israel Rubio Rodriguez** lived in the United States for over 16 years, first arriving at the age of 6. The entire span of Mr. Rodriguez's schooling has been in the U.S. Mr. Rodriguez graduated, from Charles E. Jordan High School, in Durham, North Carolina. Mr. Rodriguez went on to graduate from Columbia University in New York City with Honors and a GPA of 3.6. During college Mr. Rodriguez remained active in the community, he worked for the Global Autism Project as a summer intern, as well as for the Columbia Mentoring Initiative, Columbia Queer Alliance, and the Columbia EcoReps. Mr. Rodriguez aspires to return home, use his degree, and further give back to his community in North Carolina.
- **Pablo Vivas** resided in the United States for nearly 15 years, since he was just a child. Mr. Vivas graduated from Armijo High School in Fairfield, California. All

through high school, Mr. Vivas was active with the Air Force ROTC, hoping to one day enlist and serve his country. He served as Co-Cadet of his school, upon graduating Mr. Vivas was ranked Top 6 in the program. In 2009, the American Legion awarded Mr. Vivas with a Military Excellence medal for his “outstanding attributes.” In 2010, Mr. Vivas’ strong leadership was recognized when he was awarded the Tuskegee Airmen Award. Should Mr. Vivas ever be able to legalize his status, he hopes to be able to enlist in the Air Force.

- **Jose Alfredo Cornejo** resided in Marion, North Carolina, for 7-years. He first arrived as an unaccompanied minor at the age of 13. Mr. Cornejo quickly adjusted and graduated from McDowell high school with a 3.87 GPA. Upon graduating, Mr. Cornejo was awarded a Certificate of Academic Excellence. Mr. Cornejo was awarded student of the year and the Andrew Wilkerson Award. In track and field, he was awarded the All-Conference Award by the 3A-4A Mountain Athletic Association, he placed in the top three in several championships, was named Most Valuable Player, and was the Marion Rotary Club Athlete of the week. If allowed to return, Mr. Cornejo aspires to become a teacher and give back.
- **Edgar Torres Hernandez** resided in Texas for more than 13 years. Mr. Hernandez enjoys skateboarding, rollerblading, and NASCAR. As a teenager, Mr. Torres was active in the church choir Vita Nova. For six years he volunteered with Youth for Family and Life. He also played on the school’s basketball team. Mr. Torres was a mentor to his community. He was a member of the Junior Senate of America and DECA, where he placed first place in the Aldine District Science fair. If allowed to return home, Mr. Torres hopes to continue working with children and helping his community.
- **Javier Galvan Cortes**, now 16, resided in Florida since moving to the United States with his family at the age of 3. At 13, he was forced to leave due to a family emergency, Mr. Galvan is now ready to return and piece back his life. Mr. Galvan attended Windy Hill Elementary, Kernan middle school and was set to begin high school before being forced to leave. If allowed to return, Mr. Cortes aspires to one day work in the field of medicine.
- **Juan Manuel Roa** resided in the U.S. for 11 years. He graduated from West Ottawa high school in Holland Michigan and went on to form friendships in Dallas, Florida and California. He attended community college in Dallas, but could not afford the out-of-state tuition rates. He hopes to pursue a career as a social worker or therapist.
- **Brandon Efron Pena Valencia** has resided in the U.S. for 17 of his 20 years. He graduated from Folleson Union high school. If allowed to come home, Mr. Pena Valencia intends on attending college and giving back to his community. After nearly two-decades of living in the States, he has nowhere else to turn.
- **Luis Rivera-Lopez** has lived in the U.S. since he was a young child. At the age of 15 he left for Mexico to see to his dying grandmother. Mr. Rivera-Lopez attended Berendo Middle School, Los Banos High and Central City Value High.

All through his schooling Mr. Rivera-Lopez has been a high achiever, scoring high marks and raising the eyebrows of his teachers.

- **Leonardo Contreras Aguilar** has lived in New York longer than he has lived in Mexico, nearly 17 years. He is an accomplished artist with dozens of murals along the walls of New York City. At one point, Mr. Contreras Aguilar was invited to paint for the United Nations, and his painting is currently on tour in Spain. Mr. Contreras Aguilar has won numerous contests and awards. The Great Hunger Memorial and New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence were just two. He designs new buildings, specializing in furniture and layout of buildings. In 2008, he was selected to work on a municipal project for the City of New Rochelle, NY.
- **Vidal Francisco Benitez** lived nearly a decade in the U.S., leaving just months before DACA was announced. He graduated from Shadow Mountain high school, from there attending Paradise Valley Community College. He is an avid musician, and hopes, if allowed to come home, to work teaching music to children.
- **Brandol Jesus Pahuamba Hernandez** has lived nearly 17 of his 20 years in North Carolina, his home. Mr. Pahuamba Hernandez left for Mexico in March of 2012 after being told he would not be allowed to enlist in the Armed forces. Prior to attempting to enlist, Mr. Pahuamba Hernandez had graduated from Bunn high school, in North Carolina. Mr. Pahuamba Hernandez had been accepted to Vance-Granville and Wake Tech, however was unable to attend due to his legal status.
- **Jonathan Zuniga Hernandez** called Georgia home for more than 9 years. At the age of 17, a citizen family in Buford, Georgia adopted Jonathan, yet he still was unable to legalize his status. Mr. Zuniga Hernandez graduated from Buford Middle School as well as Flowerly Brach High School. If allowed to return to the U.S., Mr. Pahuamba Hernandez hopes to become a software engineer.
- **Alberto Peniche Vargas** has lived in Revere, MA, for 13 years. He is an asset to his community. All through high school Mr. Vargas was a leader. He played on the school football team and had hopes of playing for a college team but was unable to accept any offers as his family had moved out of the country. Mr. Vargas earned honors at Revere, graduated there, and now hopes to return to give back to his community.
- **Erika Isaura Guzman Mata** has lived in the U.S. for 12 years. She left New York for Mexico only to find that she could not validate her studies there. Ms. Guzman Mata graduated from Lincoln high school with a high honor roll award. She attended the City University of New York, Hunter College. She received many awards, including Career Opportunities in the Accounting Profession Certificate, Honor Roll certificate, and High Honor Roll certificate. Ms. Guzman Mata was very active in her church, the Church of Lady of Mt. Carmel, and she looks forward to being able to be with her community again.
- **Jessica Anahi Gallegos Reyes**, 16, and her sister **Ingrid Yamilet Gallegos Reyes**, 13, have lived in the U.S. for long enough to call it the one and only home they have. Both sisters have between them over 30 awards and certificates. They

love school and want to come home so they can have the best possible education so they can help grow America.

- **Jesus Lamberto Gutierrez Terrazas** is 22 years old. He came to the U.S. at age 15 and left the U.S. in 2010. He graduated from high school in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in 2008. About a month ago, his brother was threatened and Jesus went into hiding. It is not safe for Jesus in Mexico.
- **Giselle Gomez-Roman** came to the U.S. at age 6 and left when she was 19. She graduated from elementary, middle school, and high school in Lancaster, South Carolina. Since her early years in school, Ms. Gomez was an exemplary student. She received several awards such as reading, good behavior, perfect attendance, and the President's Award, which recognizes outstanding students. She was part of the Art and Choir club. She was also a member of her high school softball team. She was a recipient of a \$500 scholarship for her outstanding grades.
- **Cesar Israel Ortiz Millan** lived in the United States for 15 years. Mr. Ortiz suffered through cancer in Mexico. Family unity is on the top of his list, he is tired of hugging his family through a computer screen.
- **Marcela Espinoza Gallegos** grew up in Chicago, living there for nearly a decade before leaving to care for her dying grandmother. After graduating from high school, Ms. Gallegos attended college in Mexico. Her dissertation focused on Chicano studies in Chicago. Ms. Gallegos' home is in Chicago.
- **Ana Maria Dominguez Rojas** graduated from Mesa High School in Mesa, Arizona, with a 2.5 GPA. Ms. Dominguez Rojas's family fled Arizona fearing the worst was to come from Sheriff Joe Arpaio. In 2010, she received numerous awards, including for outstanding community service and early childhood professional training. Ms. Rojas now hopes to return to attend college and to give something back to her community.
- **Nallely Irazu Alejandra Buenrostro Rodriguez** is ready to come home to her two children, 3 and 6. Ms. Rodriguez has not seen her young son in 2 years. Both of her children are U.S. citizens, and they deserve to be with their mother.
- **Lorena Marisol Vargas** has an approved visa application. She has been wrongfully denied admission, instead receiving a 10 year ban. Ms. Vargas' mother is a United States citizen. Ms. Vargas' home is in Tucson with her family and friends. She left mid-way through her junior year in high school assuming she would return soon thereafter.
- **Rocio Hernandez Perez** lived in North Carolina from the time she was four years old until she was 19 years old. Against the odds, she graduated from high school in 2008 with a 3.25 GPA. She began to research options to fix her undocumented status but did not reach a solution. She wanted to pursue an education to be able to give back to her community but was unable to afford college in the U.S. She and her parents decided she should return to Mexico to further her education at an affordable rate.
- **Edna Jimena Flores Lopez** lived in Phoenix, Arizona, with her parents and sister from the time she was six years old until she was 19. She graduated from

Westwood High School in Mesa, Arizona, in 2009. After graduation Edna was eager to pursue higher education but was stymied due to her immigration status. Having exhausted all options, she returned to Mexico. Ms. Flores was able to obtain a visitor visa to come see her family. However, on September 19, 2013, she was stopped on her way through the Nogales checkpoint. Her visa was revoked because she had lived in the U.S. before, and she was deported to Mexico. She is now barred from returning to the U.S. and seeing her family, all because she had lived here since she was a child.

- **Karen Johanna Hernandez Rojas** came to the United States at the age of five and lived in the U.S. for 16 years. Despite growing up in a poor neighborhood, Ms. Hernandez was able to graduate in 2011 from Crestview College Preparatory High School in Phoenix, Arizona. While in school she was on the volleyball and softball teams. She expressed pride in her community through art. Ms. Hernandez is a talented artist, winning state-wide art contests as early as her elementary years. In high school, she was asked to paint a mural to decorate its halls, which she named "We are all connected." She hopes to pursue her dream of going to an art school in the U.S.

Each of these individuals is an asset to his or her local community and the United States. They hope to be able to return to their families in the U.S. to pursue the dreams that were cut short by their unlucky departures from the U.S. For all of these reasons, I request that these individuals be granted humanitarian parole and be permitted to reenter the U.S.

Best regards,

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Encl.