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April 23, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write to request that the Administration reverse the Executive Order that will suspend the issuance of green cards. Furthermore, your Administration must halt all anti-immigration policies that are harmful to public health and safety as the U.S. struggles to fight against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The use of a global public health crisis to promote an anti-immigration agenda is deeply problematic and goes against the immigrant tradition upon which this country was built. It also won't undo the Administration's failures to address the pandemic earlier and more aggressively. Further limitations on immigration will only bring insecurity to immigrant families resulting in greater uncertainty and economic harm to the U.S.

Most importantly, these policies will not help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Foreign-born individuals make up a large percentage of those who are on the front lines in this pandemic. More than twenty-five percent of all doctors and seventeen percent of all health care workers are immigrants. Nearly forty percent of all medical/life scientists in this country, many of whom are researching the remedies to the very virus that has caused this pandemic, are foreign-born. Additionally, over thirty percent of all agricultural workers, seventeen percent of all grocery and supermarket workers, and over eighteen percent of all food delivery workers are foreign-born. These individuals deserve our warmest praise and support, not policies that will incite fear and harm their families, friends, or communities. We shouldn't be making it harder for them to be with their loved ones during this difficult time.

Instead of honoring our nation's proud immigrant heritage, the Administration has placed countless lives at risk in the interest of amplifying its anti-immigration agenda. The Administration has already suspended routine visa processing at its consulates and embassies abroad, closed borders with Canada and Mexico to nonessential travel, and postponed court dates for migrants in the Migrant Protection Protocol program. During the first 11 days of April, the U.S. deported almost 3,000 individuals, despite having the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths of any nation.

The Administration now wants to unnecessarily prevent more immigrants from obtaining legal status. The rhetoric the Administration used to announce plans for its new policy has increased fear in our communities. Spreading fear won't protect us from this virus but universal testing and sufficient personal protective equipment, supplies, and other public health support will. In the midst of this pandemic we should be coming together as a nation by embracing immigrants who make up a large percentage of our health care workforce and are a driving force behind our country's innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and economic development. I urge the Administration to reverse the Executive Order and put its focus and energy on a national strategy that will

ensure the best possible conditions for the safety and wellbeing of all people in the United States. Now is the time to come together and use all of the best talent and minds to resolve the unprecedented challenges we face as a nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet