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Congress of the United States
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HEMISPHERE, CIVILIAN SECURITY AND
TRADE

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

**Re: Ensuring Iraqis Are Not Deported to Face Torture or Death Based on Their Religion,
Ethnicity, or Americanization**

Mr. Vice President,

We write to urge you to halt the wholesale detention and deportation of Iraqis living in the United States, including numerous Iraqi Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities. Following a recent decision by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in the *Hamama v. Adducci* case, approximately 1000 Iraqi nationals, including numerous Chaldean Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities are at risk of immediate detention and deportation to Iraq. We request that the Administration use its authority and discretion to defer mass detention or deportation until individual cases can be considered and evaluated by both the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and immigration judges. This could be accomplished through either an Executive Order or a Presidential Memorandum extending Deferred Enforced Departure—a temporary, discretionary, administrative stay of removal—for members of this group.

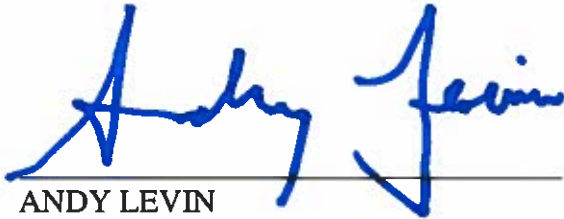
We commend your efforts to protect religious and ethnic minority populations in the Middle East, including Christian and Yezidi communities in Iraq in particular. You have publicly acknowledged the risk to Christian, religious, and ethnic minorities in Iraq and the Middle East, and you have extended support to the communities. Yet, the Administration's policy being implemented by DHS threatens to send individuals of many of the same Christian and religious minority communities back into harm's way. These individuals came to the United States under a variety of circumstances, some many years ago, some as refugees or lawful permanent residents. They deserve to be fairly and fully considered on a case-by-case basis—not detained or deported without due process that applies current law to current facts.

On Friday, April 5, we sent the enclosed bipartisan letter to Secretary Nielsen and Acting Director Vitiello. We request your urgent attention to this matter, particularly following

Secretary Nielsen's recent resignation and the recent withdrawal of Acting Director Vitello's nomination for the permanent director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We are gravely concerned for the safety of these valued members of our communities. We respectfully request a response to this letter by Monday, April 15, including as much detail as possible on how you are addressing this situation, and on how the Administration will handle these cases moving forward.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your prompt action and response.

Sincerely,



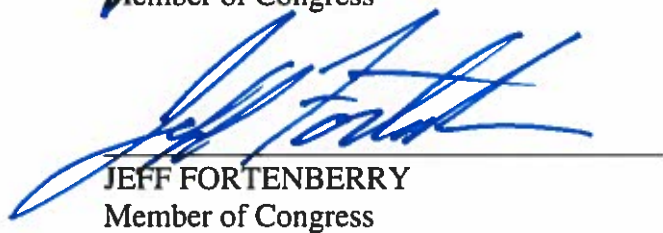
ANDY LEVIN
Member of Congress



JOHN R. MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress



ELISSA SLOTKIN
Member of Congress



JEFF FORTENBERRY
Member of Congress

CC: Christopher M. "Chris" Hodgson, Office of the Vice President
Shahira E. Knight, The White House
James L. Kaplan, National Security Council
Christine Ciccone, Department of Homeland Security
Raymond Kovacic, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement