

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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KRISTI NOEM, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, ET AL.,

*Applicants,*

v.

SVITLANA DOE, ET AL.,

*Respondents.*

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On Application to Stay Order from the  
United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

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**BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* CITIES, COUNTIES, AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENTS**

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## STATEMENT OF INTEREST

*Amici* are cities, counties, and local government leaders (“Local Government *Amici*”) spread across the country.<sup>1</sup> We respectfully submit this brief as *amici curiae*, in opposition to the application for a stay pending appeal, in this litigation challenging the Administration’s decision to suddenly terminate all grants of parole under the program for Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan nationals.

Like the nation, *amici*’s cities and counties were built with contributions from countless generations of immigrants from across the globe. These contributions have allowed Local Government *Amici* and those who live in their jurisdictions to benefit from the vitality, resolve, and enthusiasm of all those seeking the American dream.

Among those who have contributed to the richness of Local Government *Amici*’s cities and counties are many of the more than 530,000 participants in the humanitarian parole program authorized by 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5)(A) and extended to nationals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela (the CHNV parole program).<sup>2</sup> Without the contributions of these individuals, our robust economies, high quality of life, and safe communities would not be possible. Many parole participants have used their authorizations to work in sectors inextricably intertwined with the health, success, and growth of our cities and counties. And the CHNV parole program ensures

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 37.6, no counsel for any party authored this brief in whole or in part, and no party or counsel for a party made a monetary contribution intended to fund its preparation or submission. No person other than the *amici* or their counsel made a monetary contribution to the preparation or submission of this brief. A complete list of *amici* is set forth in the appendix.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *CBP Releases August 2024 Monthly Update* (Sept. 16, 2024), archived at <https://perma.cc/P2JC-BZEJ>.

that our residents are able to work cooperatively with first responders, which is necessary to ensure safety across our communities. For these reasons and others, members of *amici*'s immigrant communities generally, and participants in the CHNV parole program in particular, are integral to the flourishing, growth, and vitality of our jurisdictions.

The federal government's requested stay pending appeal would functionally terminate the CHNV parole program, which would have severe and immediate consequences for *amici*'s neighborhoods, economies, and community safety.

### **SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

This Court should deny the federal government's application for a stay pending appeal, as such an order would effectively end the CHNV parole program, and would irreparably harm not just those who have participated in the program, but the communities in which those participants have built their lives in this country. Our cities and counties are enriched by people from all over the world who have shared their diverse perspectives, cultures, languages, and religions in making *amici*'s cities and counties their homes. And for generations, immigrant families, including CHNV participants, have added to the rich fabric of our communities by enrolling their children in our schools, engaging in and strengthening our communities, and working across our diverse economies. And yet on March 25, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security summarily ended the CHNV program, terminating beneficiaries' work authorization with just 30 days' notice, and directing them to leave the country, no matter the homes they would leave behind, the families they would have to be

separated from, or the important jobs that would suddenly be left unfilled. If the application for stay were to be granted, not only would the livelihoods of the more than 530,000 CHNV participants be suddenly upended, but the immediate end of the CHNV program would cause severe economic and societal harms to Local Government *Amici* cities and counties.

First, a stay would result in unnecessary burdens on the provision of key services, including both local industries that have in recent years suffered labor shortages and essential public services. Understaffed and overburdened due to recent workforce changes, industries such as healthcare, construction, and manufacturing would once again be placed in an impossible situation. Whereas CHNV participants have rapidly filled gaps in key industries, sustaining our respective labor markets, a stay ending the program would upend all this. Economic impact aside, Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties also rely on CHNV participants to provide essential public services in our neighborhoods. From operating transportation services to keeping our children safe, at the core, program participants are vital drivers of our communities. The services provided by CHNV participants would immediately cease in Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties, and could not be readily remedied.

Second, a stay would separately undercut public safety, which depends on a meaningful and carefully built trust between law enforcement and the residents of the communities they serve. The sudden termination of the legal status of CHNV participants already threatens public safety by damaging the public's trust in law

enforcement. When residents lack confidence in their legal rights, communication and cooperation with law enforcement will be harmed. This communication and cooperation are essential to ensuring public safety in Local Government *Amici* cities and counties. For these reasons and those canvassed in Respondents' opposition, the Court should deny the application for a stay pending appeal.

## ARGUMENT

### **I. CHNV PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN CRITICAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE VITALITY OF LOCAL ECONOMIES AND SUCCESSFUL PROVISION OF KEY SERVICES.**

Nearly two-thirds of America's foreign-born population live in the nation's 20 largest metropolitan areas, including many of the Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, immigrants bring their gifts to localities of all sizes.<sup>4</sup> While all members of our communities have offered their unique contributions and enriched our neighborhoods, CHNV parole program participants in particular have been a boon to our economies by, among other things, working in key fields that provide the services many may take for granted, but which are essential to our way of life.

The CHNV parole program offers the right not only to live in the United States, but to work here, too. Under the program, eligible individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, as well as their spouses and any qualifying children, may

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<sup>3</sup> Mohamad Moslimani & Jeffrey S. Passel, *What the data says about immigrants in the U.S.*, Pew Research Center (Sept. 27, 2024), archived at <https://perma.cc/5r6w-ckf7>.

<sup>4</sup> Migration Policy Institute, "U.S. Immigrant Population by Metropolitan Area," available at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/us-immigrant-population-metropolitan-area> (last visited Apr. 25, 2025).



reside in the United States for up to two years and apply to work during that time.<sup>5</sup> Following a rigorous vetting process, which includes identifying a financial sponsor and other support, program participants have proven particularly successful in establishing homes, finding work, and integrating themselves into the very fabric of our communities.<sup>6</sup> Indeed, participants in this program rapidly establish their economic self-sufficiency through their gainful employment and support from their sponsor.<sup>7</sup>

The substantial benefits of CHNV participants' economic contributions flow to all of our residents. Simply from an economic perspective, studies have consistently shown that immigrants to the United States generally are more likely to be of working age, which helps Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties fill gaps in our respective labor markets.<sup>8</sup> For example, in Colorado, home to *Amicus* City and County of Denver, more than 80% of foreign-born residents are working age.<sup>9</sup>

CHNV program participants have been particularly helpful to *amici*'s cities and counties by choosing to work in sectors that have persistently experienced labor

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<sup>5</sup> Phillip Connor, *Survey data show the administration's parole policy for the Americas is a successful model for new legal pathways*, FWD.us (Jan. 25, 2024), archived at <https://perma.cc/984V-QTMX>; International Rescue Committee, *What is humanitarian parole?* (Mar. 7, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/HS97-C27P>.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Andrew Moriarty, *Immigration Benefits All Americans and Strengthens the Economy*, FWD.us (Mar. 14, 2024), archived at <https://perma.cc/37RU-DJ9T>.

<sup>9</sup> Office of New Americans, *New Americans Data*, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, archived at <https://perma.cc/6KFS-G5L5> (last visited Apr. 25, 2025).

shortages in recent years. From healthcare, construction, leisure, and hospitality, to manufacturing, wholesale, retail trade, business, transportation, and education, these sectors, and our residents, have benefited from the nearly quarter-million CHNV parolees who have helped bridge labor force gaps.<sup>10</sup> In the City and County of Denver, more than 23% of employees in the transportation, warehousing, and food sectors are immigrants, as are more than 11% of employees in the healthcare sector.<sup>11</sup> And while the focus of this brief is the CHNV program, it is also important to recognize that, across all parole programs authorized by Congress and created by the Department of Homeland Security, approximately 740,000 participants have been valuable economic contributors over the last four years.<sup>12</sup> CHNV program participants in *amici*'s cities and counties have thus directly supported our local economies, which may have otherwise faced important shortages or failed to bounce back as quickly following the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>13</sup>

For instance, immigrants have been essential in helping to lessen the burdens on an overstretched healthcare system in the aftermath of the pandemic. At a time when the pandemic strained our national healthcare system, newly arrived immigrants—particularly those admitted through humanitarian parole—helped

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<sup>10</sup> Phillip Connor, *Industries with critical labor shortages added hundreds of thousands of workers through immigration parole*, FWD.us (Mar. 26, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/PT7D-KSFE>.

<sup>11</sup> New American Economy, *Immigrants in the City and County of Denver: A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants*, archived at <https://perma.cc/WC65-BZD5> (last visited Apr. 25, 2025).

<sup>12</sup> Connor, *supra* note 10.

<sup>13</sup> American Immigration Council, *Immigrants in The United States*, archived at <https://perma.cc/U2T8-NL8H> (last visited Apr. 25, 2025).

address this challenge.<sup>14</sup> Helping to sustain a multi-trillion-dollar industry, Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties rely on immigrants to avoid staffing shortages in our nursing homes, health centers, and hospitals.<sup>15</sup> More than 18% of healthcare workers are born outside of the United States, including 26% of physicians, 16% of registered nurses, and 40% of home health aides.<sup>16</sup> Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties are among those who rely on CHNV participants as an important part of providing these essential services.

CHNV program participants have also played a crucial role in the construction, maintenance, and operations of buildings, which are core, yet often overlooked, tasks that keep our cities and counties operating. From pouring cement for our office buildings or erecting drywall for our homes to daily sweeping and mopping of the floors of our public buildings and commercial establishments, CHNV participants have likewise filled important gaps in not only the growth of our constantly evolving cities and counties, but also the daily work of keeping cities and counties clean and in working order.

Beyond keeping our facilities functioning, CHNV program participants further benefit Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties by providing other critical services. CHNV participants drive our buses and operate taxis or rideshares, which

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<sup>14</sup> Moriarty, *supra* note 8.

<sup>15</sup> Institute for Community Health, *New Research: Already-Stretched Healthcare Workforce in Jeopardy with Deportation Threats* (Apr. 10, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/4S82-HAZG>.

<sup>16</sup> Jeanne Batalova, *Immigrant Health-Care Workers in the United States*, Migration Policy Institute, (Apr. 7, 2023), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrant-health-care-workers-united-states>.

help keep our communities moving. They keep our children safe on school buses and at crosswalks, and serve hot lunches to workers, tourists, and students alike.

But the abrupt cessation of the CHNV parole program threatens these and other services the public relies on every day. Termination would remove 30,000 workers from the healthcare industry, 40,000 from the manufacturing sector, 30,000 from leisure and hospitality jobs, and 30,000 who currently work in construction.<sup>17</sup> These jobs—and, more importantly, the CHNV participants that fill them—support local economies and directly serve our residents and visitors.

The number of jobs lost would thus be substantial, and could not be readily replaced. Instead, the sectors of local economies most acutely affected by the loss of essential workers would suffer. Some public services would stop or be delayed or reduced, as workers who remain in those sectors would be unable to fully fill gaps left behind. Construction projects would be slowed or halted, and housing and other costs could further rise, hampering Local Government *Amici*'s and the nation's economic prosperity. Visitors to our cities and counties may think twice without the presence of well-functioning transportation, fully staffed restaurants and attractions, and clean, tidy streets. And where many immigrants have staffed important roles in our schools' kitchens and cafeterias, our public-school students, many of whom rely on hot meals prepared for them during the school day, would be left with lesser options.

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<sup>17</sup> Phillip Connor, *Industries with critical labor shortages added hundreds of thousands of workers through immigration parole*, FWD.us (Mar. 26, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/PT7D-KSFE>; see also Yael Schacher, *Setting the Record Straight on CHNV*, Refugees International (Mar. 28, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/C3HG-Z8ZF>; Connor, *supra* note 10.

## II. CHNV PARTICIPANTS' CONTINUED PROTECTION UNDER THE PROGRAM IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING PUBLIC SAFETY.

In Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties, CHNV participants, along with all members of our communities, are protected by law, help build strong bonds among neighbors, and can partner with local law enforcement officials to keep Local Government *Amici*'s cities and counties safe.

Public safety fundamentally depends on community trust, particularly the trust that those who are victimized by or witnesses to crime must be able to place in law enforcement. First responders work every day to keep our communities safe by building relationships directly with residents. This trust must be earned, and it cannot exist where members of our communities are afraid to come forward because of their immigration status. Rather, victims and witnesses must be able to cooperate with public safety officials, identifying and helping respond to threats in our communities. Their cooperation is essential.

Local law enforcement leaders have repeatedly maintained that law enforcement agencies “need people to come forward and communicate with” them for community policing to be effective; at its core, community policing is “about building trust.”<sup>18</sup> But when residents are not confident in their legal status, their communication and cooperation with law enforcement may “be less when [they] are afraid to come forward.”<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> WCVB Channel 5 Boston, *Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox on immigration laws and DEI*, YouTube (Feb. 16, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/5NBY-K729>.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

For this reason, law enforcement in our cities and counties have worked hard over many years to build trust with their communities. In Boston, for example, approximately 28% of the city's 700,000 residents were not born in the United States,<sup>20</sup> and their trust in the Boston Police Department is one of the reasons Boston recorded fewer homicides in 2024 than in any other year since 1957.<sup>21</sup> Likewise, in Denver, community trust in law enforcement helped produce a 17% decrease in homicides in 2024.

The law's protection is essential for this trust to exist. Terminating the CHNV program would undermine that trust and the safety it creates. Already, our residents talk often about their fear of reporting crimes, attending places of worship or school, or participating in the many other parts of society that strengthen our communities.<sup>22</sup> Termination of the CHNV parole program will only exacerbate this fear by pushing residents into the shadows. Fewer crimes will be reported, fewer witnesses will testify, and fewer of those who threaten the safety of our communities will be able to be held accountable.<sup>23</sup>

Additionally, the sudden nature of the proposed CHNV termination will create the type of instability that is directly correlated with decreases in public safety. When

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<sup>20</sup> City of Boston Planning Department, *Boston in Context: Neighborhoods*, archived at <https://perma.cc/MH8H-LQKU> (last updated Jan. 1, 2024).

<sup>21</sup> Molly Farrar, *'The city has never been safer': Boston records lowest murder rate since 1957, officials announce*, Boston.com (Dec. 29, 2024), archived at <https://perma.cc/J8QM-6ZEB>.

<sup>22</sup> City of Boston, Mayor Michelle Wu's Opening Statement to the United States House Committee on Oversight (Mar. 10, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/WD7R-Z4JF>.

<sup>23</sup> Anita Khashu, *The Role of Local Police: Striking a Balance Between Immigration Enforcement and Civil Liberties*, Police Foundation (Apr. 2009), archived at <https://perma.cc/2653-KPT3>.

people cannot work, go to school, access government services, or form social bonds, communities are less safe.<sup>24</sup> Public safety is a product of residents' active participation in all aspects of society; when people have stable incomes, high-quality educations, and deep ties with their neighbors, everyone in the community is safer.<sup>25</sup>

Termination of the CHNV parole program would undermine public safety in our cities and counties, and would undercut the longstanding, diligent efforts of community leaders and law enforcement to build trust across our neighborhoods.

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<sup>24</sup> Hanna Love et al., *The path to public safety requires economic opportunity: Trends and solutions in urban, suburban, and rural communities*, Brookings Institution (Mar. 11, 2025), archived at <https://perma.cc/B44Y-FNSB>.

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and the reasons provided by Respondents, the Court should deny the application for a stay pending appeal.

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## **Appendix A—List of *Amici Curiae***

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Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

City of Baltimore, Maryland

City of Chicago, Illinois

City and County of Denver, Colorado

City of Evanston, Illinois

City of Madison, Wisconsin

City of Minneapolis, Minnesota

Montgomery County, Maryland

City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

City of St. Paul, Minnesota

City and County of San Francisco, California

City of Santa Monica, California

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John Clark  
*Mayor, Town of Ridgway, Colorado*

Alison Coombs  
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Justin Douglas  
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Ed Gainey  
*Mayor, City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Beau Harbin  
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