

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

We write to express our deep concern about reports of your department's planned deportation of Haitian migrants amid the rapidly spreading and deadly COVID-19 pandemic and to urge you to immediately halt deportations for the duration of this global health crisis.

Like many of the countries to which migrants are being deported, Haiti lacks the public health infrastructure to prevent the spread of the virus or to treat a large number of infected people. Haiti has struggled to rebuild in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake and other disasters, including a cholera epidemic. Many citizens still [lack access](#) to the most basic medical care, potable water, and soap for handwashing. It is unconscionable to repatriate migrants who may be unwitting carriers of the virus into such an environment.

We are particularly concerned about the spread of the virus among ICE detainees, given the close living conditions in detention facilities, lack of access to masks or other protective gear, and your department's [poor track record](#) of providing adequate health care to detainees. [ICE detainees](#) and [employees](#) have already tested positive for COVID-19 and there is a high level of risk that deported migrants will act as carriers of the virus because [nearly a fifth](#) of those who contract COVID-19 are asymptomatic. At least two detainees who were in your department's custody have reportedly [tested positive](#) for COVID-19 shortly after they were deported.

Given Haiti's ongoing challenges, including [a likely surge](#) in the number of COVID-19 infections, We urge you to immediately halt deportations and ensure that the [CDC's recommendations](#) for preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus are implemented at every facility housing ICE detainees.

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Deportations at this time would be both irresponsible and dangerous and will almost certainly place millions of people in countries with extremely basic health infrastructures at a disproportionate risk for contracting and spreading COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



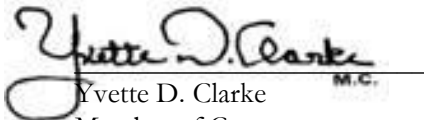
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



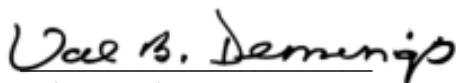
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



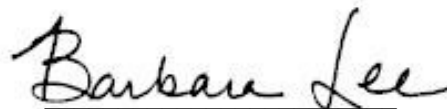
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

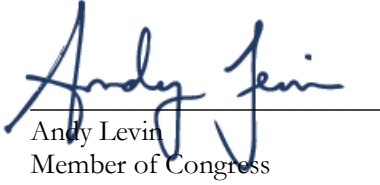


Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

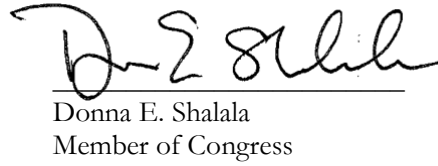


Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

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Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala  
Member of Congress



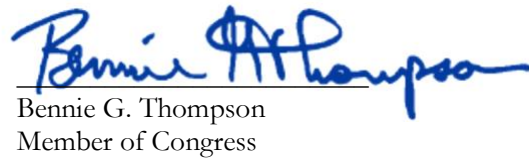
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



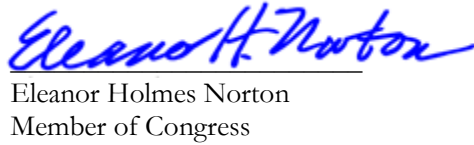
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



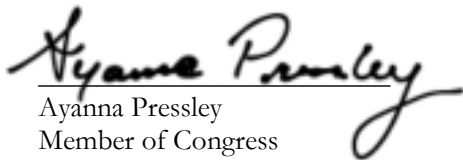
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress