

June 21, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

To the Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom and Governor's staff:

We, the undersigned community members who have been granted clemency from the Governor, benefitted from criminal justice reform laws, or otherwise have been found eligible for release from county jail or the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, write to request that the Governor support the VISION Act (AB 937 - Carrillo). Our family members and currently incarcerated community members with ICE holds, have also signed-on in solidarity with this urgent request.

Each of us have experienced California's voluntary and cruel practice of being handed to Immigration and Customs Enforcement on the day we were supposed to reunite with our family and loved ones. After serving our sentences, investing in countless hours in rehabilitative programs, being found suitable for parole and/or doing everything the state of California required of us, we looked forward to starting our re-entry plans and giving back to our communities. But on our scheduled release date, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations (CDCR) or our local Sheriff, coordinated with ICE to facilitate our immediate ICE detention and deportation.

Some of us have been deported and permanently separated from our families.

Some of us are in ICE detention.

Some of us were among the few to find legal counsel to be released from ICE detention.

Some of us received a Governor's pardon or commutation.

When immigrants and refugees get the chance to come home with the VISION Act, families will be reunited, resources spent on programs inside jails and prisons will not be wasted, people will have better access to counsel to navigate their immigration cases, and California will have more community members contributing back to their cities as firefighters, re-entry navigators, union members, business owners, non-profit leaders, students, and essential workers.

We strongly urge Gov. Gavin Newsom to support the VISION Act (AB 937), and request a meeting with a small group of us for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Impacted California immigrants and families