



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2021

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Re: DHS's Refusal to Remove Criminal Aliens

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

The Department of Homeland Security's actions to pause the removal of criminal illegal aliens, as outlined in the Department's January 20, 2021 and February 18, 2021 directives, jeopardize the health, security, and wellbeing of Florida communities. The Biden Administration's abdication of responsibility to enforce America's immigration laws reflects your disregard for public safety and the rule of law, which our state cannot endorse.

Floridians are fearfully aware of President Biden's sweeping immigration orders that aim to unravel the successful working relationship we have developed with the federal government over the past four years. As you well know, several criminal aliens were recently released in Florida, at the direction of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), who otherwise would have been detained by federal authorities. Dangerous felons were set free into our communities despite federal immigration laws. This dereliction of duty causes harm to Florida and is why on March 9, 2021, Florida filed a lawsuit against the Biden Administration.

Over the next thirty days, as many as 50 potential criminal aliens are to complete their Florida prison terms subject to ICE detainers. That number could rise to as many as 200 felons within six months—all confirmed or suspected illegal aliens having been convicted and currently serving in prison. These felons would traditionally be, and are expected to be, transferred to ICE custody. I demand that your administration continue working with our officials to ensure all such felons are detained by ICE until their status is adjudicated, and, if found to be in this country illegally, removal effected.

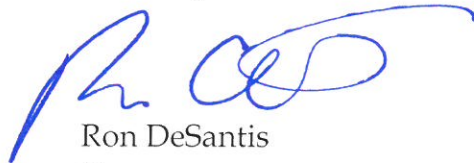
Today I have directed Florida's Department of Corrections ("FDC") to work at all costs and through all legal avenues to transfer these criminal aliens to ICE's custody

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upon completion of their Florida prison terms. Specifically, we demand that ICE continue to pick up all undocumented felons from FDC custody, or, if ICE is now unable or unwilling to do that, receive them from FDC officers at an ICE facility in Florida. Indeed, Florida has already begun during COVID-19 to bring criminal aliens to ICE's KROME Detention Center in Miami-Dade County. If ICE refuses to receive these criminals then they are released at *your* direction, not ours. In addition, I call on ICE to notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and local law enforcement agencies of all felons released from ICE custody in Florida, and to provide responses to all FDC requests under 8 U.S.C. 1373(c) for information on the citizenship status of FDC inmates.

The federal government and Florida have a long history of working together to do what is right for our citizens. I hope that cooperation will return. These are not just immigration issues – they are public safety issues. Too many lives have already been lost at the hands of criminal aliens improperly set free. Too many parents lost children because government immigration officials disregarded their legal obligations. Upon taking office, I swore an oath to protect and defend Florida, and I will never abandon that responsibility. I remain resolute in fighting for our state and upholding the rule of law. I hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,



Ron DeSantis
Governor