January 26, 2018

Dear Governor Murphy,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, urge you to support New Jersey's immigrant families by establishing a publicly-funded universal representation program to provide free, appointed counsel to all low-income immigrants in our state who are detained and facing potential deportation. This program will provide urgently needed support to members of our community who are living in fear of becoming the next targets of mass deportation, and to New Jerseyans who will otherwise lose parents, children, or partners to deportation. As legal service providers, former immigration judges, law firms, community-based organizations, faith leaders, immigration law professors and labor unions that advocate for justice and equity in New Jersey, we urge you to include funding for the program in the Governor's Budget for 2018.

Deportation tears apart families, costs New Jersey taxpayers millions of dollars and devastates our communities. In 2015, 7,260 individuals were detained in New Jersey for civil immigration violations, and *two-thirds fought their deportation without legal counsel*. The consequences of facing deportation proceedings without legal representation are dire: immigrants in New Jersey are three times more likely to prevail in their cases and avoid being needlessly separated from their families when they have a lawyer. Detained immigrants are particularly vulnerable: *only 14% of detained immigrants in New Jersey were able to avoid deportation without legal representation*.

Currently, New York State provides universal legal representation for low-income, detained immigrants and twelve more jurisdictions across the country − from Atlanta, Georgia, to Dane County, Wisconsin − have implemented, or are in the process of implementing similar programs. The New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP), which pioneered universal representation for detained indigent immigrants in deportation proceedings in New York City, led to a successful outcome in 48% of all cases, whereas before this program started only 4% of people without attorneys were able to avoid deportation.

Providing universal representation will also strengthen our economy and save taxpayer dollars. Immigrants are a critical part of the New Jersey economy. Every year, immigrants in New Jersey pay an estimated $6.5 billion in state and local taxes. Access to representation means that immigrants will be released more quickly, gain work authorization and be able to rejoin their families and continue contributing to the economy. For example, the success rate of NYIFUP cases has helped hundreds of New Yorkers gain or maintain legal work authorization. This first cohort of NYIFUP clients will in turn contribute an estimated $2.7 million annually in taxes.

Universal representation will also help keep New Jersey families together and will benefit the U.S. citizen children of immigrants. 87.5% of New Jersey children with immigrant parents were U.S. citizens in 2009. Deporting their parents means tearing families apart and leaving children in foster care or other vulnerable circumstances in the U.S. or abroad. In 2011, an

estimated 5,100 children in foster care had a deported or detained parent. When immigrants have a fair chance to fight their case, they are more likely to win and keep their families intact.

Deportation is one of the harshest penalties an individual can face under U.S. law, **yet most immigrants do not have the right to appointed counsel and cannot afford an attorney.** Access to legal representation ensures due process and an opportunity for a fair hearing and keeps our immigration system efficient. We respectfully request your support to establish a program in New Jersey that will keep our families together, support our economy and ensure due process for all.

Sincerely,

Archdiocese of Newark

American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey

American Friends Service Committee Immigrant Rights Program

Bangladeshi American Women's Development Initiative

Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Linda S. Bosniak, Distinguished Professor of Law, Rutgers Law School*

Honorable Sarah M. Burr, Retired Immigration Judge

CAIR-NJ

CATA - The Farmworker Support Committee

Centro Comunitario CEUS

Community of Friends in Action, Inc.

Diaspora Law, LLC

Faith in New Jersey

First Congregational Church of Montclair

First Friends of New Jersey & New York

Joanne Gottesman, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Immigrant Justice Clinic, Rutgers Law School*

Anju Gupta, Professor of Law, Director, Immigrant Rights Clinic Rutgers School of Law*

Human Rights First

Immigrant Support

John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest & Constitutional Law

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Latinas United for Political Empowerment

Latino Action Network

LIUNA Local 78

Local 262 of New Jersey RWDSU/UFCW

Lowenstein Center for the Public Interest at Lowenstein Sandler

Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry NJ

Randi Mandelbaum, Distinguished Clinical Professor of Law, Annamay Sheppard Scholar, and Director, Child Advocacy Clinic Rutgers Law School*

Make the Road New Jersey

McCarter & English, LLP

Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought

Municipality of Princeton, NJ

National Association of Social Workers - NJ

National Lawyers Guild Delaware-New Jersey Chapter

National Lawyers Guild - Rutgers School of Law (Newark) Chapter

Lori Nessel Professor of Law, Director of the Center for Social Justice, Seton Hall University School of Law*

New Labor

New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

New Jersey Policy Perspective

Partners for Women and Justice

Reform Jewish Voice of New Jersey

Honorable Susan G. Roy, Former Immigration Judge

Honorable Paul Wickham Schmidt, Retired Immigration Judge

Bishop John Schol, the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey

SEIU 32BJ

SEIU 1199

Unitarian Universalist FaithAction New Jersey

Veterans for American Ideals-NY/NJ

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Law Offices of Asma Warsi

Wind of the Spirit

Working Families Alliance of New Jersey

*Title and affiliation listed for identification purposes only