



THE FLORIDA SENATE

SENATOR ILEANA GARCIA

District 36

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Contact: Office of Senator Ileana Garcia

(305) 442-6841

Florida State Senator Ileana Garcia on Immigration Policy Changes and Their Impact on Miami-Dade's Economy and Community

Miami-Dade, FL – As the State Senator for District 36, I feel it is imperative to address the recent decision to cancel work permits for hundreds of thousands of individuals on humanitarian parole. This sudden action, coupled with a mere 15-day window for these individuals to contest their status, places an undue burden on both workers and employers. It is not only inadequate but fundamentally undermines the values of fairness and compassion that our nation has long upheld.

This measure indiscriminately impacts hardworking individuals who have made significant contributions to our local economy and community. The implications of this decision will reverberate across critical sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and hospitality. The loss of these skilled individuals will not only lead to staffing shortages but also compromise care for our most vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

Moreover, our agricultural and hospitality industries, which are vital to the fabric of Miami-Dade's economy, rely heavily on immigrant labor. The potential exodus of these workers threatens to disrupt supply chains and diminish the quality of service that our residents and visitors expect and deserve. The vibrant atmosphere of our community and economy is at stake.

For many individuals under humanitarian parole, returning to their countries of origin is akin to a prison sentence, often due to oppressive and totalitarian regimes that forced them to seek refuge here. We have proactive options available that allow for a more humane approach, such as permitting these individuals to pursue asylum without the immediate termination of their work permits.

As a committed member of the Republican Party, I urge President Trump and the administration to seek a more constructive solution. Let us prioritize the immediate deportation of criminal aliens while establishing a fair process for those who have complied with the humanitarian parole requirements.

Together, we can find real solutions that foster an environment where we affirm our commitment to law and order while also embracing fairness and justice. It is time to engage in thoughtful dialogue and pursue strategies that support both our economy and the individuals who contribute to its vitality.

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