

An Open Letter to the American People: The American Dream Should Not Be Deported Nor the Constitution Betrayed

Sunday, November 2, 2025

America was built by immigrants — by dreamers, workers, and believers who came seeking opportunity and freedom. Yet today, we are witnessing a troubling return to the mistakes of our past. We are targeting and deporting many immigrants who have no criminal convictions, whose only “crime” is pursuing the same dream that once welcomed our ancestors.¹

Instead of deporting individuals who are working, paying taxes, and contributing to our economy, the United States should let them stay. These men and women are not criminals or threats — they are builders of our communities, caregivers for our families, and the backbone of industries that keep America strong. They are living proof that human capital is the most important ingredient for national success.²

Our ancestors came to this country with almost nothing — no wealth or power, only determination. They built homes from bare earth, cleared farmland, founded businesses, and forged new lives through sheer will and sacrifice. They faced hunger, storms, and prejudice, yet endured for the sake of their children and the future of this nation.

Can we imagine the horror if those ancestors, after years of work, had been seized from their homes and deported? Families destroyed, dreams erased — simply because they were immigrants. That is what many families are enduring today. The American Dream they believed in has become an American Nightmare, and heavy-handed policies are to blame.

Only Native Americans can claim to be the original inhabitants of this land.³ The rest of us — Irish, Italian, Chinese, African, and countless others — descend from people who were once scorned, mistreated, or exploited. Africans were enslaved and denied personhood. The Irish, Italians, and Chinese faced laws designed to keep them out — yet these same groups helped build our railroads, mine our coal and raise the cities that define modern America.⁴

Today’s immigrants share that same work ethic and spirit. Many have walked thousands of miles, risked their lives at sea, and endured unthinkable hardships for the chance to contribute to the promise of America. They take the jobs few others want, often for low pay, yet they keep our economy running and our communities alive.

But in several documented cases, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has carried out deportations despite standing federal court orders — a direct violation

of judicial authority and the rule of law.⁵ This is not law enforcement; it is defiance of it. Under *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), the Judiciary — not the Executive Branch — holds final authority to interpret the law.⁶ When law enforcement ignores the courts, we cease to be a nation governed by law and become one ruled by force.

Some of those targeted have been previously verified and cleared by the U.S. government to live and work here. Others are foreign students with valid visas who have faced visa revocations or detention linked to peaceful protest activity — actions courts have occasionally blocked as unconstitutional.⁷

And even vetted public servants have been swept up: in one recent Chicago-area case, a police officer who had passed FBI background checks and was federally authorized to work was arrested by ICE amid a disputed status claim.⁸

When lawful residents, students, and public servants can be seized or deported in defiance of judicial orders, we reach a constitutional breaking point. This is no longer only about immigration — it is about the preservation of our democracy itself.

Imagine if your own ancestors had been stripped from their homes after building them from nothing. Their farms lost, their businesses shuttered, their families scattered. Would you even be here today? How many of us can truly prove our ancestors “came legally”? And how can we ignore that Native Americans were displaced and massacred to make way for others?

We cannot call ourselves a nation of laws while our government defies the courts. Nor can we defend freedom while punishing those who lawfully exercise it.

The American Dream is in danger — but so is the American Constitution. ICE’s disregard for judicial authority represents a fundamental threat to our democracy. If we truly believe in the Constitution, in justice, and in the ideals that define this country, we must stand against these abuses. The measure of a nation is how it treats the most vulnerable among us — and right now, America is failing that test.

History will judge us not by our power, but by our humanity. To deport those who have served, worked, and obeyed the law is to betray both the Dream and the Constitution that make America what it is.

Sincerely,
A Proud American from an Immigrant Family

PS: If you agree with these views, I urge you to contact your elected representatives in congress. Please visit my site, www.stopmassdeportations.com/buffalo for more information as well as a directory with contact information for your United States Senators and Representatives.

1. ICE FY2024 Enforcement Report: ~33% of deportees had criminal histories; most detainees have none.
2. Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy, 2022: undocumented immigrants paid ≈ \$97 B in federal, state, and local taxes.
3. National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution.
4. U.S. National Archives; Chinese Railroad Workers Project, Stanford University.
5. Documented cases: *Souvannarath v. Garland* (N.D. Ill., 2024); *Abrego Garcia v. DHS* (Ongoing, 2019–2025).
6. *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137 (1803).
7. Multiple reports of visa revocations tied to protests, 2024–2025; e.g., cases in Massachusetts and California federal courts.
8. Hanover Park, IL case (2025): local police officer arrested by ICE despite departmental verification of work authorization; dispute pending.