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Just Futures Law Applauds New Way Forward Act
Challenging Hypercriminalization of Immigrants

*Just Futures Law commends immigrant leaders, lawmakers for the introduction of a new bill challenging mass criminalization and mass incarceration of immigrant communities of color.*

Washington, DC - Just Futures Law celebrated the introduction today of the New Way Forward Act, announced at a press conference by Representatives Jesús “Chuy” García (IL-04), Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Judy Chu (CA-27), Adriano Espaillat (NY-13), Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03), and Sylvia García (TX-29).

The “New Way Forward Act” would roll back harmful immigration laws that have led to racial profiling and disproportionately resulted in the incarceration, deportation, and destruction of families of color and immigrant communities. Just Futures Law and its partners in the [Immigrant Justice Network](#) are dedicated to fighting back against these unjust laws.

“For too long, our communities have experienced the devastation of mass criminalization and mass deportation,” said Julie Mao, Deputy Director at Just Futures Law. “New Way Forward is a powerful step towards ending those policies.”

“Just Futures Law commends the courage of immigrant leaders Alejandra Cano, Saray Phin, Alejandra Pablos, and Donald Anthonyson, who have chosen to share their personal stories of detention and fear of banishment from the U.S., the country they consider home, to illustrate the need for a #NewWayForward on immigration policy,” added Mao.

A broad coalition of 145 immigrant, civil rights, and criminal justice reform organizations praised the bill’s introduction in the House of Representatives.

For more information, see our [resource page](#) on #NewWayForward.
Background: The introduction of the New Way Forward Act comes amid mounting criticism over injustices deeply embedded in U.S. immigration laws. Many of these stem from harsh laws passed in 1996 which drove mass incarceration and mass deportation of people of color. These laws tied the immigration system to the flawed criminal legal system, which suffers from racial bias and significant obstacles to equal justice. The New Way Forward Act also takes aim at a harsh law originally passed by a white supremacist legislator in the 1920s which in recent decades has enabled abuses, from “assembly-line” hearings of shackled people to Trump’s infamous tearing of children from parents at the border. This cruel law now accounts for more than half of all federal prosecutions.

The New Way Forward Act would reduce mass incarceration by ending mandatory detention and banning for-profit immigration jails and by ending federal prison sentences for people who cross the border seeking freedom, safety, opportunity, or to reunite with their families. It would advance racial justice by limiting deportation for drug convictions and others that result from enforcement that disproportionally targets communities of color. The bill would allow immigration judges to consider a person’s individual circumstances during deportation proceedings, allowing more people to remain with their families and move forward with their lives without fear that an old conviction could lead to deportation. The legislation further strengthens fairness by allowing independent federal judges to review certain decisions of immigration judges that the 1996 laws unfairly tried to remove from judicial oversight.

Other key provisions include protecting communities by ending the harmful practice of local police acting as deportation agents or carrying out mass deportations with ICE and allowing people previously ordered deported the opportunity to come home.

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