



# CARECEN

LATINO RESOURCE AND JUSTICE CENTER

*Strengthening the Latino Community in the Washington, D.C. Area*

January 24, 2021

The Central American Resource Center, CARECEN, established in 1981, is an immigration law legal service provider that also provides direct services in housing and citizenship, and promotes empowerment, civil rights advocacy, and civic training for Latinos.

CARECEN urges the passage of the Universal Representation bill for immigrants facing deportation. The importance of counsel for an immigrant in a removal proceeding cannot be understated. An immigrant who is forced to return to their home country could be facing the deprivation of life, liberty and property, and should not face such a proceeding without the assistance of counsel. Deportation can mean returning to a country where an immigrant's life or liberty could be at risk. Furthermore, an immigrant that is forced to abandon their life in the US could be separated from their families who are dependent on them for financial and emotional support. Such immigrants could also be forced to abandon a home, other property, businesses, jobs and the lives that they have built for themselves in the US. The effect on the families of immigrants is likewise profound and could lead to drastic results. Due to these possible dire consequences, Immigrants facing deportation require representation for a fair proceeding and an advocate that can navigate the incredibly complicated immigration laws to ensure that any possible relief from deportation is sought.

Studies by the American Immigration Council confirm what every immigration practitioner already knows...immigrants with representation are more likely to succeed in their cases and are also more likely to be released from detention. In turn, the ability to fight one's case outside of detention is also correlated with more successful outcomes.

We urge that the legislature take quick action to ensure that immigrants in Maryland who may be gravely affected by their deportation, have access to justice through representation in removal proceedings. True justice cannot exist without it.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Augustin  
Director of Legal Services

Cc: Personnel File

CARECEN

1460 Columbia Road, N.W. Suite C-1, Washington, D.C. 20009  
Tel (202)328-9799 • Fax (202)328-7894 • [www.carecencdc.org](http://www.carecencdc.org)

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Melecio Rivera  
*President*  
Inter-American  
Development Bank

Rosemarie Salguero  
*Vice President*  
Greenberg Traurig

Gabriela Colocho  
*Treasurer*

Kirsten Keating  
*Secretary*  
Freddie Mac

Milly Rodriguez  
*Executive Committee At-  
Large*  
American Federation of  
Government Employees

*Members*  
Ernesto Campos  
Hugo Carballo  
Alicia Criado Hampshire  
Jorge Granados  
Flavia Jimenez  
Ana Patricia Rodriguez  
Rexanah Wyse  
Alberto Zegada

Organizations listed for  
identification purposes  
only.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Dr. Segundo Montes, SJ  
(1933–1989)  
The Central American  
University (UCA)  
“Simeón Cañas”,  
El Salvador

Congressman  
Joe Moakley (D-MA)  
(1927–2001)

Saúl Solórzano  
CARECEN President  
(1961 – 2011)