

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 2, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT:

cawtfmedia@innovationlawlab.org



California Welcoming Task Force Statement on Biden Administration’s Restart of the Unjust “Remain in Mexico” Program

SAN DIEGO – Today, the Biden administration announced the reimplementing of the cruel and unjust Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program, also known as “Remain in Mexico,” for early next week. This Trump-era policy has forced over 70,000 migrants, including children, who traveled to the United States through Mexico to remain there while their asylum claims are processed.

Members of the California Welcoming Task Force issued the following statement demanding that the administration end MPP once and for all:

“The nearly 50 organizations that make up the California Welcoming Task Force call on President Biden to keep his word and take all actions available to his administration, including permanently re-terminating MPP and declining, under any circumstances, to reimplement it, and immediately rescinding all other policies that obstruct access to asylum at the border. It is time to rebuild our asylum system to welcome people with dignity and humanity.”

On June 1, 2021, the [administration ended](#) MPP. However, in August 2021, a federal district court in Texas barred the government from doing so, finding proper procedures were not followed in ending MPP and ordered the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to restart the program “in good faith.”

The Biden administration on October 29, 2021, issued a new MPP termination [memo](#), but continued to take steps to reimplement the program, including today’s December 2

[announcement](#), which expands the program to include all countries in the Western Hemisphere. The administration did not restart the wind-down process to allow individuals formerly subjected to MPP back into the U.S.

Under MPP, more than seventy thousand people who sought refuge in the United States were forced to return to Mexico while their immigration cases were processed. The vast majority were not able to access counsel. MPP, which started under the Trump administration, exposed these individuals and families to dangerous conditions, including at least [1,500](#) publicly reported cases of kidnappings, rape, assault, and murder according to Human Rights First. Individuals with medical issues were erroneously placed into the program prolonging their health issues and causing further suffering. Many individuals and families remain trapped in these conditions and every day that this program continues, lives will be shattered.

###

The California Welcoming Task Force is a binational coalition dedicated to re-envisioning how the U.S. can welcome people seeking asylum safely and expeditiously at our border by coordinating across sectors: humanitarian, legal, health, advocacy and communications.