

Dear Representative

I am writing to urge you to take swift legislative action to end the Administration's chaotic "Migrant Protection Protocols" (MPP).

This week we learned that asylum seekers on the Gateway International Bridge connecting Brownsville, TX, to Matamoros, Mexico, were engaging in an action of nonviolent protest against MPP. As Congressman Filemon Vela points out, this development should not come as a surprise.

Faithful witnesses on the ground at the border remind us of migrants' desperation to flee life-threatening conditions, even when their journey entails great hardship. Attorneys assisting the asylum seekers remind us of the dangers the migrants face, and of the underlying fact that MPP is a violation of American laws and international treaties to which we are bound.

The situation is desperate—and very alarming to people of conscience. As a faithful citizen and a constituent in your district, I am strongly encouraging you to take the following actions immediately:

1. Endorse U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela (D-TX) [statement to the Brownsville Herald](#) regarding the protest at the Gateway bridge
2. Support/co-sponsor [HR 2662](#) introduced by U.S. Rep Veronica Escobar (D-TX), which would defund MPP

These are the initial steps that must be taken to restore rule of law and due process to our asylum process. The first branch of government must take action to halt the abuses of power and human dignity that have corrupted America's reputation. I stand ready to provide any other support that you might need to take this bold action on behalf of the most vulnerable.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative [Your Representative's Name],

This week we learned that asylum seekers on the Gateway International Bridge connecting Brownsville, TX, to Matamoros, Mexico, were engaging in an action of nonviolent protest against MPP. that asylum seekers on the Gateway International Bridge connecting Brownsville, TX, to Matamoros, Mexico, were engaging in an action of nonviolent protest against the Administration's chaotic "Migrant Protection Protocols" (MPP).

[Having visited the MPP camps, I believe this turn of events was more than predictable]

[OR some other statement about your own experience or thoughts.]

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Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Street Address, City, State, and Zip Code]

[Your Email—Optional but a good idea to include]

## **Congressman Vela's Statement**

U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela (D-TX) issued the following statement regarding the asylum-seeker protest at the Gateway bridge:

“Trump's illegal and inhumane ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy has forced asylum seekers to live in horrendous squalor. Today's events are the predictable result of this policy. Forcing asylum seekers to live in miserable refugee camps has only made a bad situation worse and has now negatively impacted the flow of trade and travel at our border. The Trump administration should immediately reverse this policy, afford these individuals their due process rights, and allow them to stay in the United States while their claims are adjudicated as our laws dictate and as we have historically done.

“At a minimum, the administration should task the United States Agency for International Development to work with our Mexican counterparts and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees to ensure humane living conditions for suffering claimants while they await resolution of their claims, and immediately stop returning vulnerable migrants like pregnant women, children, and at-risk LGBTQ asylum-seekers to Mexico.

“This is not only the legal and right thing to do, it is the moral thing to do.”

## **H. R. 2662**

To prohibit funds from being used to implement the Migrant Protection Protocols announced by the Secretary of Homeland Security on December 20, 2018.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2019

Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DEAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VELA, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

### **A BILL**

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