



*Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream.*

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORWARD LATINO OPPOSES S.1494  
SEN. GRAHAM'S ANTI-ASYLUM BILL**

Milwaukee, WI – Today the United States Senate Judiciary Committee will begin the mark up process on The Secure and Protect Act of 2019, Senate Bill S.1494. U.S. Senate Bill S. 1494 removes numerous due process protections, eliminates certain categories of individuals from being eligible for asylum, increases the period of time children and families can be kept in federal detention, and drastically lowers the safety standards of the facilities children and families can be detained in.

Darryl Morin, President of Forward Latino stated “S.1494 represents a departure from the principles upon which our nation was founded and the promise our nation has kept for over 243 years. It is in direct contradiction to everything our nation holds dear. It is an attack on the family as it prolongs the period of time children and families can be held in federal detention. Further, it strips away the minimum safety standards required for the detention centers where they are held. We only need look at the report issued by the Acting Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security on July 2, 2019 (<https://forwardlatino.org/child-detention-1>) to see the inhumane conditions in which children and families continue to be detained. S.1494 does nothing but increase the suffering of those fleeing violence in their homeland and does nothing to address the root cause of the problem. It does nothing to address the crime and violence from the countries from which they are fleeing, and it does nothing to address the judicial backlog intentionally created by this administration. Further it strips away due process from asylum seekers and in a number of circumstances completely eliminates asylum eligibility for entire classes of individuals. For these reasons Forward Latino encourages members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote no, and for all members of Congress to end any further consideration of this bill.”

*About Forward Latino:*

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream. Forward Latino will fulfill its mission through a combination of advocacy, civic engagement, education and service delivery.

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