



# Rhode Island State Council of Churches and the Rhode Island Bible Society

Mr. Jeremy M. Langill  
*Executive Minister*

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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President Joseph Biden  
White House  
Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC

re: A Proclamation on Securing the Border

Dear President Biden:

The Rhode Island State Council of Churches is an association of faith communities committed to the facilitation of immigrant integration into our communities and to the protection and safety of immigrant rights and dignity. We firmly oppose your recent executive order, "A Proclamation on Securing the Border."

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We note that federal immigration policies, and the lack of them, has led to considerable confusion and wide-ranging hardships for both immigrants and for the communities working to accommodate them. We also recognize that there is no clear path to the disentanglement of the destructive consequences that have developed because of a long history of absence of will and lack of leadership from our elected officials in Washington.

President Biden's executive order to turn away asylum seeking immigrants when their numbers have exceeded an arbitrary limit is a mistaken approach towards resolution. The United Nations asserts that, "seeking asylum is a human right and every person in this world has the right to apply for asylum if they are fleeing conflict or prosecution. They must not be expelled or returned to situations where their lives or freedoms would be in danger."

The executive order issued on Tuesday denies the humanity and freedoms of asylum-seekers for no reason other than their numbers have grown beyond an arbitrary limit. This is clearly and morally a breach of the values this country was founded upon and aspires to maintain. As the Rhode Island State Council of Churches is committed to the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings, we vehemently oppose this presidential mandate. We strongly call on our elected officials in Washington to work together to establish an equitable immigration policy and to provide the leadership this country so desperately needs if we are going to, in any way, fulfill our own national mandate to promote freedom and justice for all.

Sincerely,

Rev. Charles B. Ortman  
**Immigration Commissioner**

Mr. Jeremy M. Langill  
**Executive Minister**

Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski  
**President**