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## CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

June 12, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Kristi Noem  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear President Trump and Secretary Noem,

As members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write to express our deep concern about the potential barriers facing international travelers ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.<sup>1</sup> With the tournament expected to become the most widely viewed sporting event in history, building on the 2022 World Cup’s reach of 5 billion fans worldwide, it is imperative that the United States demonstrate leadership in balancing security with accessibility.<sup>2</sup>

Yet, the recent travel bans and escalating tensions in Los Angeles, one of the World Cup host cities, points to serious risks. These risks include aggressive immigration enforcement, active-duty military personnel on the streets of American cities, due process violations, visa processing delays, arbitrary revocations, unjustified detentions at ports of entry, and other logistical obstacles that could significantly suppress global fan attendance.<sup>3</sup>

We urge your administration to reject reactionary enforcement shifts and instead invest in coordinated leadership, cutting-edge security infrastructure, and efficient entry and visa systems that uphold our values while securing our borders. For the 2026 FIFA World Cup alone, the United States is expected to draw 6 million international fans, part of a broader of 40 million visitors that are

<sup>1</sup> Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

<sup>2</sup> Clarridge, Christine. “Seattle Counts Down to the World Cup.” Axios Seattle, Axios Media Inc., 29 Jan. 2024,

<https://www.axios.com/local/seattle/2024/01/29/fifa-world-cup-2026-host-city>.

FIFA. “Audience Reports: Qatar 2022.” Inside FIFA, FIFA, n.d.,

<https://inside.fifa.com/tournament-organisation/audience-reports/qatar-2022>.

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch. “Letter to FIFA Re. Human Rights Responsibilities in 2026 World Cup.” *Human Rights Watch*, 6 May 2025,

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/05/06/letter-fifa-re-human-rights-responsibilities-2026-world-cup>.

estimated to travel to the U.S. for major upcoming events including the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games, the 2025 Ryder Cup, and America's 250th birthday celebrations.<sup>4</sup>

During the first meeting of the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026 earlier this month, FIFA President Gianni Infantino rightly stated, "America will welcome the world."<sup>5</sup> The FIFA Club World Cup 2025 and FIFA World Cup 2026 will also be a boon to the U.S. economy, as expressed during the White House Task Force meeting. Recent studies from FIFA and the World Trade Organization (WTO) estimate the two tournaments will generate \$47 billion in economic output and create almost 300,000 jobs across the country.<sup>6</sup>

We, as Members of Congress, will work to ensure these projections become a reality. And we are encouraged by your similar commitment, Mr. President, to "make the (FIFA) World Cup an unprecedented success."<sup>7</sup>

It is imperative that we ensure a successful FIFA World Cup and other upcoming sporting tournaments. These events not only serve to demonstrate our strength and leadership around the world, but they are key drivers of economic growth to our country and the local economies of host cities.

We will continue to closely monitor your administration's implementation of aforementioned security measures and stand ready to ensure that policies affecting visas, border processing, and event security are sufficiently funded and advance both our national interests and the reputation of the United States as the world's premier host. We stand ready to partner with your team, offering our full support and resources to facilitate timely coordination across federal, state, and local agencies. To better understand the present landscape, we request answers to the following questions by June 27, 2025:

1. What specific measures will the Department of Homeland Security and State Department implement to ensure expedited visa processing for teams, players, and ticket holders ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup?

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"People Are Warning Against Attending the 2026 World Cup in the US After J.D. Vance Made a 'Joke' About Deporting Visitors." *Yahoo News*, 8 May 2025, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/jd-vances-most-recent-joke-172140929.html>.

"Nashville SC Supporters Group ICE Raid Immigration, MLS." *The New York Times: The Athletic*, 14 May 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6349947/2025/05/14/nashville-sc-supporters-group-ice-raid-immigration-mls/>.

Boykoff, Jules, and Dave Zirin. "With ICE Out of Control, How Can the US Cohost the 2026 World Cup?" *The Nation*, 31 Mar. 2025, <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/ice-fifa-world-cup-north-america/>.

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Klobuchar, Amy, and Jerry Moran. "Klobuchar, Moran, Colleagues Call on President Biden to Create Global Sporting Task Force." *U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar*, 14 Aug. 2024, <https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2024/8/klobuchar-moran-colleagues-call-on-president-biden-to-create-global-sporting-task-force>.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Travel Association. *Commission on Seamless and Secure Travel: Report*. U.S. Travel Association, Feb. 2025, <https://www.ustravel.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Commission-on-Seamless-and-Secure-Travel-Report.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> FIFA. "White House Task Force Meets to Discuss Future FIFA Tournaments in the United States." *Inside FIFA*, FIFA, 7 May 2025, <https://inside.fifa.com/organisation/news/white-house-task-force-meets-to-discuss-future-fifa-tournaments-in-the-united-states?requester=MediaHub&entryId=3UGIGrf3t1ht9yFjpuAIY9>.

<sup>6</sup> FIFA. "FIFA-WTO Study Estimates USD 47 Billion Economic Output from FIFA Club World Cup™ and FIFA World Cup™ in the US." *Inside FIFA*, 5 Apr. 2025, <https://inside.fifa.com/organisation/media-releases/fifa-wto-study-estimates-usd-47-billion-economic-output-from-fifa-club-world>.

<sup>7</sup> FIFA. "White House Task Force Meets to Discuss Future FIFA Tournaments in the United States." *Inside FIFA*, FIFA, 7 May 2025, <https://inside.fifa.com/organisation/news/white-house-task-force-meets-to-discuss-future-fifa-tournaments-in-the-united-states?requester=MediaHub&entryId=3UGIGrf3t1ht9yFjpuAIY9>.

2. How will Customs and Border Protection provide clear, multilingual guidance for arrivals at ports of entry to prevent arbitrary detention and ensure consistent treatment of international visitors?
3. What safeguards will be put in place to avoid due process violations and unjustified detentions at entry points, as highlighted by human rights and policy experts?
4. With an anticipated 6 million World Cup fans (and 40 million for all upcoming events), what contingency plans exist to scale processing capacity if arrivals exceed projections?

By working hand-in-hand, we can safeguard the fan experience, bolster our economy, and showcase American hospitality and leadership on the global stage—making the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and all the great sporting events to follow, a resounding success for our nation.

Sincerely,




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Adriano Espaillat  
Chair  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus




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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator




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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator




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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress




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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress




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Norma J. Torres  
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Darren Soto  
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



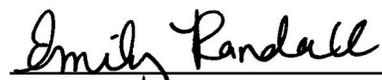

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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress




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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



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Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



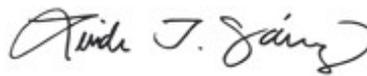
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Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20520