

## **Sign-on Letter – Marlen Moreno-Peralta**

We the undersigned write to humbly request that you take action to immediately halt the deportation of Marlen Moreno-Peralta (A#88-771-833).

Marlen was born in Mexico and was brought to the United States when she was 13 years old. In 2002 she became the first member of her family to graduate from high school, but because of her legal status she was unable to continue her education. Despite not being able to enroll in college she dreams of becoming a pre-school teacher. Marlen says, “I want to help children achieve their full potential from a young age, so they can continue to excel in every aspect of their lives.”

Her passion for education is due in part to her also being a loving mother of two children, Freddy Alan who is 3 and Leobardo, Jr. who is just 10-months old. Marlen and her husband, who is a legal permanent resident, struggle every day trying to think of how they will survive. This is especially hard for Marlen, who has already had to endure being separated from her first son.

On March 28, 2008, Marlen and her son were awakened late at night. Before she knew what was happening, she was detained by ten heavily armed deputies. She spent the next four and a half months in jail without any chance of bail. While she was in custody, she missed seeing her son sit, crawl, and learn how to walk. Now she is even more frightened to know that, in less than a week, she may miss seeing him go to his first day of school.

Marlen would qualify for the DREAM Act, a narrowly tailored bill making its way through the U.S. Senate (S.729). The bill would allow for undocumented youth, who like Marlen were brought here at a young age, to fix their legal status upon completion of two years of military service or two years of college.

Marlen exemplifies what it means to be an American and she should be allowed to live the American dream. She has a loving permanent resident husband, two lovely U.S. citizen children, and a beautiful future ahead of herself.

**We the undersigned urge you to immediately take action to stop Marlen's August 8<sup>th</sup> deportation:**

- United We Dream Network – Washington D.C.
- National Council of La Raza – Washington D.C.
- America's Voice – Washington D.C.
- Center for Community Change – Washington D.C.
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center – San Francisco, CA
- Border Action Network – AZ
- Presente.org
- VivirLatino.com
- Trail of Dreams
- DreamActivist.org
- Florida Immigration Coalition
- New York State Youth Leadership Council – New York, NY
- One Michigan – Detroit, MI
- Immigrant Youth Justice League – Chicago, IL
- Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC) – Chicago, IL
- Nuestra Voz – Chicago, IL
- Students Working for Equal Rights – FL
- University of Illinois Project FOCUS: India – IL
- Washington Dream Act Coalition – WA
- Dream Team Los Angeles – CA
- Asian Law Caucus – CA
- Kansas Missouri Dream Alliance
- University Leadership Initiative – Austin, TX