



Envision Freedom Fund

195 Montague Street, 14th Floor

Brooklyn, NY 11201

[envisionfreedom.org](http://envisionfreedom.org)

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Contact: Julie Mente, Communications Manager, [press@envisionfreedom.org](mailto:press@envisionfreedom.org), 917-723-3443

## ENVISION FREEDOM CALLS ON BIDEN TO END EXPANSION OF ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

**NEW YORK, NY** — Faced with rising numbers of immigrants being detained and deported since taking office, President Biden is attempting to fulfill his promise to reform this country’s immigration system by relying on a [rapid ramp-up of “alternatives to detention.”](#) This development is not unexpected, but it is a major cause for concern.

“Calling something an ‘alternative to detention’ is a linguistic sleight of hand. Electronic shackling, surveillance, and burdensome restrictions like check-ins and curfews are punitive, invasive, and harmful. Placing hundreds of thousands of immigrants under surveillance in their homes, communities and workplaces is not a substitute for detention; it’s a form of extreme policing of people’s bodies and movement. We cannot swap physical cages for virtual ones and expect different results from a system that criminalizes immigrants at every turn. Immigrants need to be free to be reunited with their families and access the resources they need to live their lives while their immigration cases continue. Freedom is more than just not being locked in a cell,” says **Carl Hamad-Lipscombe, executive director of Envision Freedom Fund.**

The Biden administration should be focused on policies and initiatives that shrink the size of the immigration detention system in favor of investments in community-based programs that can provide resources and support to immigrants. Envision Freedom Fund will continue to demand the administration live up to their promises by ending inhumane and unnecessary immigration detention, including the practice of virtual detention.

**Envision Freedom Fund (formerly Brooklyn Community Bail Fund)** works alongside impacted communities to dismantle the oppressive and interconnected criminal legal and immigration systems. With freedom as our guiding principle, we invest in innovative campaigns and programs that aim to win long-term, transformative change, while meeting the urgent needs of community members in the present.

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