

July 4, 2019
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Dear Senator Harris:

I am very concerned about persecution of immigrants. There are records of many genocides from Athens 2500 years ago and North America 200 years ago to Germany 80 years ago and Rwanda 20 years ago. In every case political leaders have sought to present the victims as a dangerous subhuman other by subjecting them to indignities unthinkable for us. Once this division is cemented in people's minds it is frighteningly easy for a slaughter to begin. We began down this path with the language of illegals, continued with deportation redefined as a civil penalty not subject to judicial protections and added indefinite detention. Now we have 43 percent of the population supporting a party which sees as a political strength such horrors as kidnapping infants, forcing people into standing room cells for weeks and rounding up long standing community members for the same treatment. My Austrian friend has warned since 2016 that this is how a holocaust begins. I fear that our society is now primed for a horrific spasm of genocide.

Please assure me that you will do everything possible to end immigrant detention.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our human rights record at home.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson