

## Social Action Committee

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County 516 Prospect Street, Maplewood, New Jersey 07040  
www.EssexEthical.org ecsec.nj@gmail.com 973-763-1905

Board of Trustees: Tom Cunningham, President; Alice Robinson-Gilman, Vice President; Terri Suess, Treasurer; Peggy Toy, Secretary; Esther Barcun; Elaine Durbach; Zia Durrani; Jill Farrer; Jackie Hershops; Birgit Matzerath; Lisa Novemsky; Jeanine Rosh; Andy Weinberger. Leader Emeriti: Martha Gallahue, Boe Meyerson, Jim White.

**Meredith Sue Willis, Social Action Committee Chair**

May 17, 2022

Dear Senator Codey,

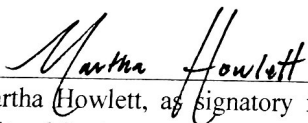
The Social Action Committee of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County writes to urge your support and sponsorship for **Bill S512/A1986 - Establishes certain law enforcement and privacy procedures; designated as New Jersey Values Act** ("Values Act"). Our committee is composed in part of members from your district and it is with their support that we send this letter. We want to share with you how the Values Act will improve the efficacy of community services.

New Jersey residents have a variety of public programs available to enrich their lives including schools, libraries, youth, domestic abuse and emergency shelters and hospitals. Many of these institutions exist and are successful because of your continued legislative support. These public programs can be a vital tool to find freedom from crushing poverty, abuse and despair. Sadly, many New Jerseyans are deterred from using these programs because of their immigration status or the immigration status of their loved ones. We feel, as members of the community and taxpayers, it does not make sense for our public programs to exclude so many people they were designed to help.

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We hope you take a candid and fair look at supporting and passing the Values Act. We sincerely thank you and your staff for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Martha Howlett, as signatory for the Social Action Committee of the Essex County Ethical Cultural Society

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May 17, 2022

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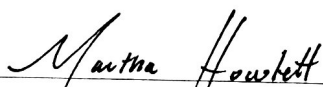
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May 17, 2022

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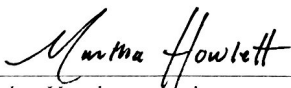
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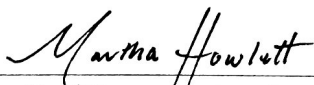
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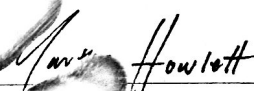
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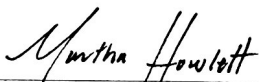
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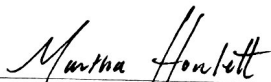
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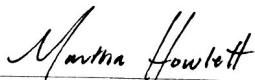
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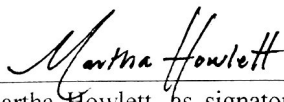
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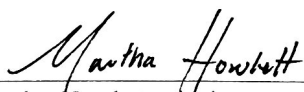
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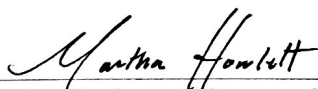
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May 17, 2021

Dear Representative Payne,

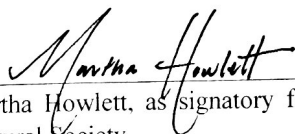
The Social Action Committee of the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County writes to urge your support and sponsorship for **H.R.5383 - To reform the process for enforcing the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes** ("New Way Forward Act"). Our committee is composed in part of members from your district and it is with their support that we send this letter. We want to share with you how the New Way Forward will keep New Jersey families together.

First, the New Way Forward Act would end the mandatory detention of undocumented immigrants facing deportation proceedings, instead requiring that any custody follow least restrictive conditions. This would allow immigrants to stay with their families, to consult their lawyers freely and to continue to participate in our economy and communities while their immigration cases are processed. It would also keep vulnerable persons, such as persons under the age of 21, pregnant, LGBTQ or witnesses to crimes, out of prisons where they are more likely than the average person to be the targets of violence.

Second, the New Way Forward act grants immigration judges the ability to stop deportations of undocumented immigrants with prior, non-aggravated felony convictions for humanitarian purposes, family unity or when it is otherwise in the public interest. Once someone has served their sentence for a crime, their legal redress for such crime has been completed. They should not be further punished by being sent to a hostile country. Many of the formally incarcerated are committed to doing right by their families and becoming peaceful, productive members of society, and immigration judges should be allowed to consider these factors when making deportation decisions.

We hope you take a candid and fair look at supporting and passing the New Way Forward. We sincerely thank you and your staff for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Martha Howlett, as signatory for the Social Action Committee of the Essex County Ethical Cultural Society

## Social Action Committee

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County 516 Prospect Street, Maplewood, New Jersey 07040  
www.EssexEthical.org ecsec.nj@gmail.com 973-763-1905

Board of Trustees: Tom Cunningham, President; Alice Robinson-Gilman, Vice President; Terri Suess, Treasurer; Peggy Toy, Secretary; Esther Barcun; Elaine Durbach; Zia Durrani; Jill Farrer; Jackie Herships; Birgit Matzerath; Lisa Novemsky; Jeanine Rosh; Andy Weinberger. Leader Emeriti: Martha Gallahue, Boe Meyerson, Jim White.

**Meredith Sue Willis, Social Action Committee Chair**

May 17, 2021

Dear Senator Booker,

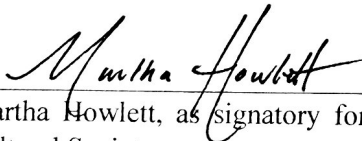
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May 17, 2021

Dear Senator Menendez,

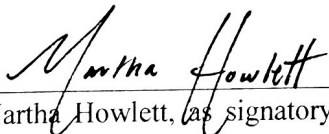
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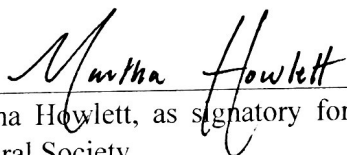
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