



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1430 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5901 • 916-319-0800 • WWW.CDE.CA.GOV

March 12, 2026

U.S. Customs and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
5900 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, Maryland 20746

To Whom It May Concern:

**Subject: Letter of Support for Joseph Andrey Londono Rodriguez**

I am writing in strong support of Joseph Andrey Londono Rodriguez, [REDACTED], who is currently a student at California School for the Deaf in Fremont (CSDF). I respectfully submit this letter to explain the importance of allowing Joseph to remain in the United States so that he may continue receiving an appropriate and fully accessible education as a Deaf child.

Joseph is currently enrolled in our Alternative Curriculum (AC) program, which provides specialized and modified instruction designed to meet the unique academic and language needs of Deaf students who require individualized educational support. Through this program, Joseph receives instructions that are carefully tailored to his learning profile and language development.

A critical component of Joseph's education is full and direct access to American Sign Language (ASL). ASL is the only language Joseph knows and uses to communicate. Although he was born in Colombia, Joseph has not learned Colombian Sign Language or Spanish. Because of this, remaining in an environment where ASL is the primary language of instruction is essential for his continued language development and academic progress and overall well-being.

At CSDF, Joseph receives direct ASL immersion instruction, which provides support for his language development and communication skills. He has been making meaningful progress in developing language abilities and social-emotional development. He is a joyful student who enjoys coming to school every day. Joseph especially enjoys dancing, playing with his friends, and participating in classroom activities with his peers. The CSDF community provides him with an environment where he can build friendships, develop confidence, and grow socially while learning in a language-rich setting.

For Deaf children, language access is critical to healthy development. Removing Joseph from an educational setting where he has full communication access in ASL would significantly disrupt his academic progress, language development, and social

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emotional stability. CSDF provides Joseph with the specialized instruction and community support necessary for him to thrive.

For these reasons, I strongly support Joseph remaining in the United States so that he can continue his education at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, where his linguistic, educational, and developmental needs can be appropriately met.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tony Thurmond  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

cc: The Honorable Markwayne Mullin, United States Senator, Oklahoma; Secretary  
Nominee, Department of Homeland Security  
The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senator, California  
The Honorable Adam Schiff, United States Senator, California