New York, NY (July 19, 2019) – An immigrant family in the Bronx is fighting to save the life of devoted father Inocencio Roman, whose health is rapidly deteriorating due to inadequate treatment in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. On behalf of Mr. Roman and his family Make the Road New York has filed an urgent parole request demanding his immediate release.

Inocencio Roman, a father of three, has been held at Bergen County Jail since February 2018. He has received woefully substandard care for serious medical conditions. A recent medical consultation has found that if Inocencio is not immediately given access to proper care he is at risk of severe complications to his long-term health, including but not limited to: foot amputation, coma and death. The medical consultation was provided by members of a volunteer medical provider network put together by New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

Mr. Roman suffers from insulin-dependent Type II diabetes and liver disease—and without proper medical treatment at Bergen County Jail, his life is at risk. Release on parole will allow Inocencio to reunite with his family and receive the medical treatment he desperately needs.

Carlos Roman, Son of Inocencio Roman, said, “My father’s life is at risk. My sisters and I have been separated from our father for the past year and a half, and now we could lose him if he doesn’t get the medical treatment he needs.”

Ariel Gould, Staff Attorney at Make the Road New York, said, “Our client continues to fight his deportation. However, we are deeply concerned that he will not live to see the outcome of his case if he is not immediately released to his family, and to his medical providers—who have expressed that they are willing and ready to treat him with the care he needs if released.”
Laura F. Redman, Director of the Health Justice Program at the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, said, “There is an ever growing and expanding human rights crisis in detention facilities across the country. People in immigration detention live in deplorable conditions, their dignity and health care needs ignored. Mr. Roman’s conscience-shocking experience is not only indicative of that crisis but very similar to other examples we have seen occurring in other NY-NJ jails that contract with ICE. These are situations that end up in dramatic health consequences and even death. It is often difficult for doctors to even get into these facilities to meet with people suffering this kind of medical neglect. The detention machine is ruthless and cruel, in that regard.”

As the national outcry against the horrific conditions at the border continues, immigrants are suffering similar inhumane and unjust conditions in communities across the country. According to an NBC analysis, 24 immigrants died in ICE custody between the beginning of the Trump administration and early June.