

Policy and Advocacy

The Executive Order

- ▶ Did not end the “zero tolerance” policy
- ▶ Aims to detain families indefinitely

ACLU Lawsuit

- ▶ Last week, a preliminary injunction
 - ▶ halts deportations without children,
 - ▶ stops family separation without cause at Ports of Entry,
 - ▶ requires communication with children within 10 days as well as reunification with the timeframe based on age of child, requiring that nearly all children younger than 5 be reunited with their parents within 14 days and that older children be reunited within 30 days.
 - ▶ If reunification cannot happen in DHS custody, adults must be released and then child returned to them.
- ▶ However, it did not:
 - ▶ Halt the criminal prosecutions of parents that cross between ports of entry and the resulting family separation or
 - ▶ Stop the administration from expanding family incarceration.

Messaging

- ▶ We call for immigration laws and policies that uphold **family unity** and denounce any sort of family separation.
- ▶ We oppose **family detention** as likewise an incredibly traumatizing experience for children and asylum seekers and especially denounce any attempt to hold families in detention indefinitely.
- ▶ We call for **access to legal counsel and fair due process** for all immigrants including all asylum seekers, so that they can effectively fight their immigration cases. We denounce attempts to change asylum laws and processes which enact further barriers for those seeking protection.

Alternatives to Detention

- ▶ Some examples of alternatives include reuniting individuals with family members currently living in the U.S., connecting people with faith-based hospitality communities, or most, importantly, investing in family case management.
- ▶ In June 2017, the administration ended the Family Case Management Program
 - ▶ The cost was just \$36 per day per family.
 - ▶ This program had a 99.6% appearance rate at immigration court hearings and a 75% appearance rate for deportations for those enrolled in the program.
 - ▶ According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, detention costs around \$800 for a family per day, whereas alternatives only cost an average of \$4.50 per day.

Why is everyone talking about abolishing ICE?

- ▶ The agency has only been around since 2003.
- ▶ Immigration enforcement as we know it should end. What would this mean in practice?
 - ▶ A moratorium on deportations.
 - ▶ The end of all forms of immigration detention.
 - ▶ The reimagining of the Border Patrol as a humanitarian force that rescues migrants. Border Patrol could be staffed by emergency services experts and healthcare workers, not police.
 - ▶ We need to establish a truth and reconciliation commission to examine the abuses perpetrated by Homeland Security agencies (ICE, CBP, USCIS, TSA). We need reparations distributed to the millions who have been terrorized by ICE.
- ▶ How? Ultimately, we need to make it politically impossible for Congress to continue to support immigration enforcement. We need to defund ICE, and we need legislation that dismantles the agency. There's already movement: at least 21 Democratic congressional primary candidates have come out in favor of abolishing the agency. Over 100 members of Congress called for cutting ICE's budget this year.

Mijente: https://mijente.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Mijente-Immigration-Policy-Platform_0628.pdf

This is a problem created by the Administration

- ▶ It is important to keep in mind that this is a situation brought on by the administration, and it could be solved by the administration. Attempts to blame Congress for family separation or family detention are disingenuous attempts to shirk the blame.

But...Still Call Your Members of Congress

- ▶ Ask them to:
 - ▶ Push the administration to immediately end its "zero-tolerance" policy of prosecuting and incarcerating everyone who crosses the border, which is the root cause of family separation.
 - ▶ Cut funding for detention and deportation, and increase accountability and oversight of immigration and border enforcement.*
 - ▶ Utilize non-restrictive, community-based [alternatives to detention](#), the most appropriate response for families, children, and asylum seekers.

Speaking to your MoC's about legislation

You must be able to ground your support/opposition to bills in concrete principles that will transfer to any potential legislative compromise.

Remember the messaging:

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Legislation -SUPPORT

▶ SUPPORT:

▶ S. 3036: The Keep Families Together Act

- ▶ Prohibits officers from removing children from their parents unless a determination is made that it is in the child's best interest
- ▶ There are a number of other provisions, including mandatory child welfare training for relevant authorities, requiring a procedure for locating separated children, establishing regular reporting on family separation, as well as a report on the prosecution of asylum seekers.
- ▶ Asserts that detention is not in the best interest of families and children

▶ And similar legislation

Legislation - OPPOSE

- ▶ OPPOSE:
 - ▶ S. 3091: The Protect Parents and Kids Act
 - ▶ Speeds up the review process for immigrants seeking asylum to 14 days.
 - ▶ S. 3093: The Keep Families Together and Enforce the Law Act
 - ▶ Expands indefinite family detention

- ▶ And similar legislation

What else can I do?

- ▶ VOTE! Help register others to vote. Volunteer for campaigns. Our votes matter and we have the chance to mitigate some of the administration's damage by voting people into office who will uphold our values.
- ▶ Call the administration as well because they are really the people responsible for all of this.
- ▶ Volunteer and donate to organizations doing the work + support immigrant communities
 - ▶ Local: St. Francis Community Services; MICA
 - ▶ National: KIND, Texas Civil Rights Project, RAICES