

March 7, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chairman Thad Cochran  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room S- 128 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: FY 2018 Appropriations Bills  
Urging reduction in funding for immigration and border enforcement

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to ask you to oppose President Trump's request to fund the construction of a wasteful border wall and the expansion of an indiscriminate deportation force that targets immigrant youth and long-term residents. The White House request inflates last year's bloated immigration and border enforcement budget to a grand total of \$21.5 billion which is more than the United States spends on all other law enforcement agencies combined. **We urge you to significantly reduce funding for immigration enforcement and detention in the FY2018 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) appropriations bills.**

We can no longer treat funding for immigration detention and enforcement as business as usual. In light of the gridlock to pass permanent protections for Dreamers, every dollar appropriated for

immigration enforcement is a dollar that can and will be used to jail and deport these young Americans and their families. President Trump and his appointees have eliminated all prioritization and discretion from the system. There is no room for consideration of a person's equities, including length of time living in the U.S., ties to their communities, or U.S. citizen children. By expanding expedited processing and subjecting bona fide asylum seekers to increasingly prolonged detention, DHS is undermining due process and regularly deporting people who should be receiving protection under U.S. laws. By unleashing this force with inadequate limitations, the Administration has fostered an unprecedented attack on immigrant communities which threatens our education system, our local businesses, and our nation's values.

Congress must demonstrate its power of the purse and refuse to reward an agency replete with chronic fiscal mismanagement, inadequate oversight and a penchant for covering up serious allegations of misconduct<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, mismanagement and neglect of the immigration detention system has resulted in a network of 200+ jails riddled with abuse and rights violations, including the [excessive and arbitrary use of solitary confinement](#), [abuse of force by officers](#), and [deaths attributable to medical negligence](#). In light of these concerns, Congress should move to decrease ICE's funding, not bail them out.

Appropriating money without justification on the southern border does more to harm U.S. citizens on the border than improve public safety. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has not used money that it has already been appropriated to hire agents and construct border infrastructure. It is fiscally irresponsible to give the Border Patrol more money to hire additional agents when the agency cannot maintain the minimum number of agents authorized by Congress. Further, Border Patrol agents, like ICE agents, routinely undertake community enforcement operations that separate families and tear apart communities. CBP even goes so far as to brag about these actions, recently claiming they were "helping" [a young girl en route to the hospital for emergency surgery by stopping and initiating deportation proceedings against her](#). There is additionally a troubling history of misconduct at CBP. Within CBP, [more than 95% of all cases of alleged misconduct by Border Patrol agents resulted in "no action taken"](#), including very serious allegations of physical abuse and sexual assault. DHS itself concluded in September 2017 that the southern border is ["more difficult to illegally cross today than ever before."](#) In light of apprehension numbers at the southern border that are at a 45-year low, lack of effective oversight and accountability, and no demonstrated need for additional funds based on either sound data analysis or community input, Congress should cut funding for CBP.

We also oppose the legislative rider added by Congressman Newhouse to the House Appropriations spending bill for the Department of Homeland Security on July 18, 2017, which would open up the

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<sup>1</sup> For more, see the report "[ICE Lies: Public Deception, Private Profit](#)" from the Detention Watch Network and National Immigrant Justice Center, January 2018.

uncapped H-2A program to year-round jobs. Such a drastic change to the program should not be considered without reforms that improve the program and legalize the professional farmworkers that are currently the backbone of the agricultural industry.

We urge you to pass permanent protections for Dreamers and to refuse to implement mass deportation and incarceration policies. Given the current excess capacity that has already permitted a dramatic increase in arrest and detention of well-respected long-term residents, any increase in funding will undoubtedly cause more community heartbreak. We believe that scarce taxpayer funds should be spent on building up communities, investing in families, promoting growth and economic security and investing in adequate oversight and accountability of immigration and border enforcement agencies. Our nation needs solutions to our immigration system that benefit our country rather than wasting billions of taxpayer dollars on policies that hurt public safety and our economy.

Sincerely,

**National** [129]

Action Together Network (ATN)

Alianza Americas

America's Voice

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Americans for Immigrant Justice

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Center for American Progress (CAP)

Center for Community Change (CCC)

Center for Employment Training

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for Popular Democracy

Christian Community Development Association

Church World Service

Coalition on Human Needs

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd - US Provinces  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
CREDO  
Daily Kos  
Democrats for Education Reform  
Detention Watch Network  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Earthjustice  
ECODiversity Magazine  
Enlace  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement  
Farmworker Justice  
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA)  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Network USA  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers)  
Government Information Watch  
GreenLatinos  
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network  
Herd on the Hill  
HIAS  
Hip Hop Caucus  
Hispanic Federation  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC  
Immaculate Heart Community  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Indivisible  
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
Jobs With Justice  
Justice Strategies  
Latin America Working Group  
Latino Victory Fund  
Latinos for a Secure Retirement

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
MALDEF  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
Mercy Ecology, Inc.  
Mi Familia Vota  
MomsRising  
MoveOn.org Civic Action  
Muslim Public Affairs Council  
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latina/o Psychological Association  
Native American Community Academy Inspired Schools Network (NISN)  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
NextGen America  
Oxfam America  
Partnership for Working Families  
Positive Women's Network - USA  
Presente.org  
Project South  
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)  
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project  
Quixote Center  
RESULTS Columbus  
Salaam Legal Network

School Sisters of Notre Dame - Central Pacific Province  
School Social Work Association of America  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth - Congregational Leadership  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth - Western Province Leadership  
Sisters of the Good Shepherd - National Advocacy Center  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Student Action with Farmworkers  
Teach Plus  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
UltraViolet  
UndocuBlack Network  
UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza)  
UNITE HERE  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
United We Dream  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Voices for Progress  
Voto Latino  
Washington Office on Latin America  
We Belong Together  
Women's Refugee Commission

**State and Local [225]**

*Alabama* [1]

Equality Alabama

*Arkansas* [4]

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Arkansas Justice Collective

Arkansas United Community Coalition

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*Arizona* [6]

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence  
BorderLinks  
Global Family Legal Services  
The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project  
Kino Border Initiative  
Stand Indivisible Scottsdale

*California* [61]

AB 540 Ally Training Project  
Alameda Health Consortium  
Alianza  
API Equality - LA  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)  
Central American Resource Center of Northern CA  
Centro del Inmigrante, Inc.  
Centro Laboral de Graton  
Centro Legal de la Raza  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Chula Vista Partners in Courage  
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc  
Community Law and Mediation Services  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Courage Campaign  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Employee Rights Center  
Faith in Action Bay Area  
Faith in the Valley  
Franciscans for Justice  
Immigrant Youth Coalition  
Immigration Action Group

Immigration Center for Women and Children  
Indivisible Conejo  
International Institute of the Bay Area  
Jubilee Immigration Advocates  
La Raza Centro Legal  
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County  
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)  
Monarch Services  
OneJustice  
Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)  
Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers  
Pangea Legal Services  
Peninsula Progressive Action Group  
PICO California  
Public Law Center  
St. John of God Church  
Salud Para La Gente  
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.  
San Francisco Peninsula People Power  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)  
Sisters of St. Francis - St. Francis Province  
Social Justice Collaborative  
SOMOS Mayfair  
South Bay People Power  
STEP UP Sacramento  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City - Social Action Committee  
University of Southern California International Human Rights Clinic  
University of California Hastings Center for Gender and Refugee Studies  
UpValley Family Centers of Napa Count  
Village Community Resource Center  
Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS)  
West Marin Standing Together - Immigration Action Committee

*Colorado* [5]

Bethany Immigration Services  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)  
Colorado People's Alliance  
Immanuel Fellowship Church



United for a New Economy

*Connecticut* [1]

Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible

*Delaware* [1]

Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families

*Florida* [5]

The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.

Florida Immigrant Coalition

Friends of Broward Detainees

Pax Christi Florida

WeCount!

*Illinois* [13]

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

HANA Center

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

Indivisible Aurora

Indivisible Norwest Illinois

Indivisible West Suburban Action League

Indivisible Western Springs and Surrounding Communities

Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants

Jewish Voice for Peace - Chicago

Mujeres Latinas en Accion

Project IRENE

*Indiana* [1]

Indiana National Organization for Women

*Iowa* [3]

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque

Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA

*Georgia* [5]

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta  
First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta - Social Justice Guild  
Georgia Detention Watch  
Georgia Stand-Up  
Women Watch Afrika

*Kansas* [1]  
Catholic Agency for Migration & Refugee Services

*Kentucky* [2]  
NKU LULAC  
Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, KY

*Maine* [1]  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

*Maryland* [3]  
Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
CASA  
DC-Maryland Justice for Our Neighbors

*Massachusetts* [3]  
Action Together Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

*Michigan* [1]  
Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids

*Minnesota* [4]  
Fairmont, MN Peace Group  
Immigrant Law Center of MN  
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, MN  
OutFront Minnesota

*Missouri* [2]  
Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project  
St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin American (IFCLA)

*Nebraska* [8]

Grand Island Latino Network  
Heartland Workers Center  
Latino Center of the Midlands  
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
Nebraska Commission on Latino American Affairs  
Schlegel Center for Service and Justice  
The Trinidad Center  
Unity in Action

*Nevada* [1]

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada Action Fund (PLAN Action)

*New Hampshire* [1]

NH Conference United Church of Christ - Immigrant and Refugee Support Group

*New Mexico* [7]

Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) - Las Cruces  
EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos  
Encuentro  
New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.  
NM Comunidades en Acción y de Fe  
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center  
Santa Fe Dreamers Project

*New Jersey* [7]

Action Together NJ Atlantic County  
First Friends of NJ & NY  
Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Make the Road New Jersey  
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
Unitarian Universalist FaithAction New Jersey

*New York* [21]

Adhikaar  
Atlas: DIY  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC  
Church Women United in New York State

Dominican Sisters of Hope  
Families for Freedom  
Gay Asian Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY)  
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition  
Her Justice  
Indivisible Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Ossini, Peekskill (CCoHOPE) - Immigration & Social Justice Committee  
Indivisible Nation BK  
Long Island Wins  
Make the Road NY  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)  
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York  
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)  
UnLocal, Inc.  
WESPAC Foundation

*North Carolina* [2]

Equality North Carolina  
Sisters of Mercy - South Central Community

*Ohio* [5]

Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center  
Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH - Leadership Team  
Ohio Council of Churches

*Oklahoma* [1]

University of Tulsa College of Law - Immigrant Rights Project

*Oregon* [3]

Centro Latino Americano  
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ)  
Latinx Alliance of Lane County

*Pennsylvania* [9]

Asian Americans United  
CASA  
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern Peace Center  
New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC)  
Sisters of St Francis of Philadelphia  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM)

*South Carolina* [3]

Grassroots Alliance for Immigrant Rights  
Hilton Head for Peace  
Immigrant Connection - Greenville Multicultural

*Texas* [11]

American Gateways  
Austin Sanctuary Network  
En Confianza  
La Unión del Pueblo Entero  
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Migrant Center for Human Rights  
Migrant Rights Collective  
Pantsuit Republic  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County  
University Leadership Initiative  
Wilco Justice Alliance (Williamson County, TX)

*Utah* [1]

Action Utah

*Virginia* [1]

CASA

*Vermont* [1]

Migrant Justice / Justicia Migrante

*Washington* [13]

Colectiva Legal del Pueblo

Columbia Legal Services, Washington State  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Indivisible Skagit  
Indivisible Wallingford  
Indivisible WA-4  
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC)  
LIFT (Local Immigrant Family Treasury)  
OneAmerica  
Skagit Immigrant Rights Council  
Tri-City Democrats  
Tri Cities Immigrant Coalition  
Walla Walla Immigrant Rights Coalition

*Washington, D.C.* [1]

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition

*Wisconsin* [5]

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI  
End Domestic Abuse WI  
Latino Academy of Workforce Development  
Voces de la Frontera  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

*Wyoming* [1]

Immigration Alliance of Casper