

June 5, 2017

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

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

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
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

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

We, the undersigned, immigrant rights, civil and human rights, faith-based, environmental, labor and women's organizations write to ask you to oppose President Trump's request for \$4.5 billion to fund his executive orders that would fund the construction of a divisive border wall, expand his deportation force and immigration detention and lower accountability for immigration and border agents. We therefore 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 until the Administration can demonstrate that there is prioritization and accountability at the agencies.

We can no longer treat funding immigration enforcement as business as usual. It is the stated goal of the President of the United States to deport millions of immigrants. 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., U.S. citizen

children or ties to their communities. Through the expansion of expedited removal and truncated asylum processes, DHS is undermining due process and deporting people with humanitarian claims. By unleashing this force with virtually no limitations, the Administration has fostered an unprecedented climate of fear among immigrants, their families and their communities.

President Trump has laid out his vision for mass deportation through three executive orders that seek to create a Muslim ban, supercharge interior enforcement, coerce local law enforcement to enforce immigration law, and dramatically expand detention. But he can't fully implement his agenda unless Congress appropriates the funding. In this new era, every dollar appropriated for immigration enforcement is a dollar that moves the President closer to his goal of banning, deporting and excluding immigrants in the United States. We call upon members of Congress to stand with immigrants and oppose this funding that would enable the President's merciless and indiscriminate deportation machine.

**At current funding levels, the consequences of President Trump's DHS is chilling:**

- Fewer women are reporting sexual assault and domestic violence across the country, and are less willing to go to the police.<sup>1</sup> Houston saw a 40% drop in reports of rapes this year from the same period last year.<sup>2</sup> Los Angeles saw a 10% drop in reports of domestic violence among Latinos and 25% drop in reports of sexual assault.<sup>3</sup> In Denver, fear of deportation has caused some witnesses of violent crimes to skip court, ultimately allowing several cases to be dropped and suspects to walk free.<sup>4</sup> In Montgomery County, Md., calls for sexual assault and domestic violence have dropped by 50% compared to last year.<sup>5</sup>
- In likely violation of treaties the US has signed and international human rights law, child refugees fleeing the threat of murder are being denied even a basic credible fear hearing.<sup>6</sup>
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are entering courthouses and arresting women seeking protection from domestic violence.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Medina, "Too Scared to Report Sexual Abuse. The Fear: Deportation.", *The New York Times*, April 30, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Brooke A. Lewis, "HPD chief announces decrease in Hispanics reporting rape and violent crimes compared to last year", *Houston Chronicle*, April 6, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> "LAPD: Fear of Deportation Keeping Latinos From Reporting Sex Crimes", *CBS Los Angeles*, March 22, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Heidi Glenn, "Fear of Deportation Spurs 4 Women To Drop Domestic Abuse Cases in Denver", *NPR*, March 21, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Medina, "Too Scared"

<sup>6</sup> Caitlin Dickerson and Miriam Jordan, "'No Asylum Here': Some Say U.S. Border Agents Rejected Them", *The New York Times*, May 3, 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Tom Steele, "El Paso Officials Say Domestic Violence Victim Was Arrested Inside Courthouse", *Dallas News*, February 6, 2017.

- DHS Secretary Kelly has publicly stated that he plans to use mass detention as a deterrent of future illegal immigration, a violation of the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.<sup>8</sup>
- In February, ICE agents conducted an “early morning ambush,” apprehending a handful of men as they left a hypothermia shelter at a church in Alexandria, VA.<sup>9</sup>
- At least five DACA recipients reportedly have been detained and at least one deported.<sup>10</sup>

At close to \$19 billion a year, the United States already spends more on immigration enforcement than all other law enforcement agencies combined. Congress should not fund President Trump’s executive orders that will further his mass deportation regime that indiscriminately targets all undocumented immigrants, including long-time residents with deep ties to the United States.

In this environment, every dollar appropriated for ICE and CBP agents, fugitive operations and immigrant jail space directly contributes to the President’s goal. These dollars are funding the tools that rip families apart, that spread fear and distrust in our communities and sacrifice real public safety for demagoguery. Rather than tearing families apart, implementing mass incarceration and creating fear in our communities, we believe that scarce taxpayer funds should be spent on building up communities, investing in families and promoting growth and economic security. The President’s mass deportation plan is targeting precisely those immigrants who the vast majority of Americans--9 out of 10--support granting permanent legal status as part of immigration reform. Our nation needs solutions to our immigration system that benefit our country rather than wasting billions of taxpayer dollars on enforcement that hurts public safety and our economy.

Sincerely,

**National**

Adjunct Justice

African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA)

Alliance for Citizenship

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<sup>8</sup> Samantha Schmidt, “DHS is Considering Separating Mothers and Children Who Cross the Border Illegally”, *The Washington Post*, March 7, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Jasmine Norwood, “Alexandria Man Detained by ICE Speaks Out, Worship Leaders Work to Stop Raids”, *DCW50 TV*, February, 20, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> *Daniel Ramirez Medina*: Nicole Chavez and Rosa Flores, “ICE Releases Seattle ‘Dreamer’ Daniel Ramirez Medina”, CNN, March 29, 2017. *Daniela Vargas*: Christine Hauser, “A Young Immigrant Spoke Out About Her Deportation Fears. Then She Was Detained”, *The New York Times*, March 2, 2017. *Edwin Romero*: Diane Smith, “Dallas County ‘Dreamer’s’ Arrest Puts Scare in Immigrant Rights Community”, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, February 22, 2017. *Josue Romero*: Jason Buch, “One-time DACA recipient facing deportation in S.A. released”, *My San Antonio*, February 17, 2017. *Francisco Ramirez*: Francisco Ramirez, “I Have DACA, But That Didn’t Stop Trump’s Immigration Agents from Arresting Me”, *Willamette Week*, April 5, 2017. *Juan Manuel Montes*: Alan Gomez, “Homeland Security Now Acknowledges Deported Dreamer Had Status”, *USA Today*, April 19, 2017.

America's Voice Education Fund  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
Amnesty International USA  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence  
Black Alliance for Just Immigration  
Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office  
Catholic Charities  
Center for American Progress  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee and Immigration Ministries  
Church World Service  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Codepink  
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)  
Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Council on American Islamic Relations  
Demos  
Detention Watch Network  
Earthjustice  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
Faith in Public Life  
Farmworker Justice  
Food Empowerment Project  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
HIAS  
Hispanic Federation  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Indivisible  
Interfaith Worker Justice  
International Rescue Committee  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
Jobs With Justice  
Justice Strategies  
Latin America Working Group

Latino Victory Fund  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Medical Mission Sisters  
Mi Familia Vota  
MomsRising/MamásConPoder  
Muslim Public Affairs Council  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD)  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of Churches  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)  
National Employment Law Project  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latina/o Psychological Association  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Tongan American Society  
National Wesleyan Church  
National Women's Law Center  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Nicaragua Center for Community Action  
Our Revolution  
Partnership for Working Families  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)  
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

SEIU Local 2015 Advisory Committee  
Sisters of the Precious Blood  
SiX Action  
South Asian Americans Leading Together  
Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
UndocuBlack Network  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education (UURISE)  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Farm Workers of America  
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United We Dream  
Voto Latino  
W. Haywood Burns Institute  
We Belong Together  
Women's Refugee Commission  
YWCA USA

**State and Local**

Abuse Counseling and Treatment Inc.  
Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada (ACTIONN)  
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
Alianza  
Alliance San Diego  
Allies of Knoxville's Immigrant Neighbors (AKIN)  
Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence  
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Arkansas United Community Coalition  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles  
Asian Community Development Council  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council  
Asian Services In Action  
Atlas: DIY

Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC  
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Campbell Adult and Community Education  
Casa Latina  
Casa de Maryland  
Catherine Cobb Safe House  
Catholic Charities of West TN  
Catholic Committee of the South  
Causa Oregon  
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.  
Center for Latino Progress (CPRF)  
Central American Resource Center D.C. (CARECEN)  
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Centro Latino Americano  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)  
Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan, Inc.  
Christ United Methodist Ministry Center  
Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador  
Church Women United in New York State  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Colorado Licenses Committee  
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto  
Community Resources of Fayette County, Inc.  
Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
Connecticut Bail Fund  
Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance  
D.C.-Maryland Justice for Our Neighbors  
Dolores Street Community Services  
Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids  
East Tennessee Jobs with Justice  
El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos  
El Monte Wesleyan Church  
Encuentro New Mexico  
End Domestic Abuse WI  
Equality California

Erie Neighborhood House  
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.  
Florida Council Against Sexual Violence  
Franciscans for Justice  
Franciscan Peace Center  
Friends of Broward Detainees  
Friends for Democracy  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Grassroots Alliance for Immigrant Rights  
Grassroots Leadership  
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition  
Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice  
Hana Center  
Hilton Head for Peace  
Hispanic American Community Education and Services (HACES)  
Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama  
Hope Border Institute  
Huerto de la Familia  
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas  
Iglesia del Nazareno  
Immigrant Defenders Law Center  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County  
International Institute of New England  
Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
Justice for Our Neighbors Southeastern Michigan  
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Kino Border Initiative  
Korean Resource Center  
La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)  
Las Cruces Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)  
Latin America Solidarity Organization  
Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer Iowa (LUNA)  
Long Island Jobs with Justice  
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault  
Lowcountry Immigration Coalition



Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence  
Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project (MICA)  
Migrant Rights Collective  
Mission Graduates  
Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates  
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project  
Mujer, Inc.  
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence  
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice  
New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.  
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center  
New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia  
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors  
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
OneAmerica  
OneJustice  
Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development  
Pangea Legal Services  
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape  
Philadelphia Japanese American Citizens League  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Project HELP, Inc.  
Public Counsel  
Rape Crisis Center  
Rape Crisis Center of Summit and Medina Counties  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
Refuge House, Inc.  
Refugio del Rio Grande

Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty  
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.  
San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center  
School Sisters of Notre Dame, CP Corporate Responsibility Committee  
Scott Shelter Society  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community  
Sisters of St. Francis, Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, JPIC Committee  
Skagit Immigrant Rights Council  
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)  
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
Southern California Immigration Project  
St. John of God  
St. Joseph Valley Project Jobs with Justice  
Survivors, Inc.  
Survivors of Torture, International  
Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Texas Association Against Sexual Assault  
Texas Organizing Project  
Unidad Latina en Acción (ULA)  
Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden, Social Justice Council  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey  
United for a New Economy  
University Leadership Initiative  
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Vida Legal Assistance Inc.  
Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
VN TeamWork, Inc.  
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Women Helping Women  
Women's Center, Inc.  
Women's Center of Jacksonville  
Women's Resource Center, Inc.

Worker Justice Center of NY, Inc.  
Young Immigrants in Action