



The Next Fight in Congress: Funding Mass Deportations, Detention of Immigrants and the Wall: A Backgrounder

Tell Congress to Deny Funding for Trump's Mass Deportation Force, Detention Camps and Wall: No to the \$3 billion

Stop Tearing Families Apart. The fight to stop the mass detention and deportation machine starts by halting Congress from funding it. Trump wants Congress to give him \$3 billion dollars *on top of* the \$20 billion budget for this year to speed up his deportation machine.

No Down Payment. This request for \$3 billion -- a down payment for the border wall, more detention space and more immigration agents -- is just the start of Trump's plans to pay for his anti-immigrant, racist and xenophobic agenda. In the coming years, Trump will come back to Congress again and again asking for more taxpayer money.

Fund Families Not Walls. Our taxpayer dollars would be better spent investing in families, our children and our future. This \$3 billion could go to creating jobs, rebuilding our failing infrastructure and training our veterans for better jobs. It could also go to education for our children, health care for older Americans and cleaning up our environment.

Tell Congress to say NO to Trump's request for more money for his anti-immigrant agenda. It will be harder and harder to fight his demands for more money in the years to come if we do not stop him now.

What is the money for?

Mass deportations. One of the first things that Trump did when he got into office was to issue two executive orders on immigration enforcement to ramp up the mass deportation regime. In addition to directing the construction of a border wall, these orders direct the Department of Homeland Security to hire 10,000 more immigration and customs enforcement agents and 5,000 more border patrol agents; instruct the Government to strip funding from sanctuary cities; and to increase the detention of immigrants. The orders and the subsequent policies that followed them have made virtually all immigrants that are subject to deportation a priority for deportation.

Since the orders, we have seen immigration agents pick up immigrants in courthouses and outside churches and undocumented youth with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals) detained. We have seen long-time residents who had previously been allowed to stay in the US detained at routine check-ins and then later deported. The result has been to instill incredible fear in immigrant communities.

The administration plans to ramp up these efforts more by deporting up to 2 million people a year, but it needs billions more taxpayer dollars to hire the projected staff and increase detention beds.

Does this matter right now?

Yes. Blocking funding for Trump's mass deportation agenda is the best point of resistance that we have in Congress to slow down Trump's mass deportation agenda. Money is one of the only barriers to Trump's regime fully enacting its hate-fueled detention and deportation nightmare.

Every dollar we keep out of the hands of the immigration enforcement paramilitary means fewer agents terrorizing communities and less infrastructure to build out the detention and deportation machine even further.

Every Dollar Matters. Trump's deportation funding would pay for:

- More of the border wall, a hateful symbol of exclusion that will further militarize border communities and which has BIPARTISAN OPPOSITION;
- More detention facilities;
- More immigration enforcement agents to round people up and process them for deportation;
- More resources to criminally prosecute people for immigration violations in order to construct statistics out of thin air that bolster his "immigrants are criminals" propaganda.

Can we win?

Yes. Trump needs 60 Senators to vote in favor of his request. There are only 52 Republican Senators. Republicans will try to get 8 Democratic Senators on their side. The Democrats must stay strong on those policies. We must get Democrats to vote against these spending requests, no matter what, and they must stop negotiating with Republicans on these requests.

When *you* stopped Trumpcare from passing, we saw that powerful organizing and constituent pressure *can* change the outcome of something that previously seemed inevitable. Even with an openly racist President and Republicans controlling both houses of Congress, we *can* win.

Where is the money coming from?

Trump plans to get \$3 billion by cutting essential programs that all Americans, including veterans, depend upon. The White House has proposed \$18 billion in domestic spending cuts for the next 6 months of Fiscal Year 2017, mostly related to education, labor and health. These are a sampling of the many proposed cuts:

- Nearly \$3 billion from education programs
- \$1.6 billion in Housing & Urban Development Grants
- \$314 million reduction in disease prevention
- \$90 million in FEMA funding
- \$242 million in EPA funding

How does this relate to a government shutdown?

The Federal Government is only funded through April 28, so Congress must extend its funding before that date to avoid a government shutdown. Republicans may try to attach the additional \$3 billion for mass deportations to the government funding bill (often referred to as a “continuing resolution,” but sometimes as an “omnibus”). Senate Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has threatened to shut-down the government by getting the Democrats to block the legislation if that happens, which could result in a temporary shut-down. So far, Republican Senators have indicated that they do not want a government shut-down, but the White House or House Republicans may push them to vote on the government funding together with the \$3 billion anyway. Or there may be a separate vote on the \$3 billion. Either way, we need Democrats to stay strong and to pressure Republicans to back off as well.

Members of Congress are scheduled to be back home in their districts in mid-April (April 3-21), and we expect a vote on the \$3 billion soon after the recess. Initial targeting should happen now while Congress is still in session, and then continue and escalate while they are home on recess (April 3-21).

How does this relate to the Muslim ban?

The Trump Administration seeks to target, scapegoat and marginalize immigrants, refugees, Muslim Americans and other communities of color in a variety of ways. The Muslim ban and the mass deportation regime are two pieces of that plan. This Administration has also created an Orwellian list of immigrants who commit crimes and seeks to blame immigrants who come on visas for “taking native-born workers jobs.” We need to fight back on all of these fronts and stand up for the values that we aspire for our country to realize: that we are a country that welcomes immigrants and offers equality and due process under the law.

Other Background and Talking Points

Use these hashtags on twitter:

#FundFamiliesNotWalls

#NoBanNoWallNoRaids

- Trump's agenda of mass deportation and detention must be stopped. Demand that Members of Congress commit to ZERO funding for the wall, the deportation force, and the mass detention of immigrants.
- Trump has requested \$3 billion as a down payment on the wall and mass deportation force.
- Trump has requested \$18 billion dollars in cuts to domestic spending, including cuts to education, health, arts, veterans and transportation programs, in order to fund this inhumane operation to separate families.
- Trump's deportation force will lead to more mothers and fathers being hunted down by ICE agents. More immigrant youth prosecuted for speaking out, and if Congress hands them the money, they'll have all the detention space they need to detain immigrants.
- The border is secure. The undocumented population has been stable since 2009 and two-thirds of undocumented immigrants have lived here for more than 10 years. We need a fair and humane immigration system, not an immigration system imposed by militarized force. Our immigration laws should stand for our core values as a nation that welcomes immigrants, respects due process, and gives everyone fair treatment under the law.
- A border wall is a wasteful and harmful use of taxpayer money. Instead, Members of Congress should focus on delivering permanent policy changes that respect the dignity of immigrants without supporting Trump's agenda of mass deportation.
- Congress should not give Trump a blank check on an issue that impacts the lives of millions of Americans.

Border-state Republicans are opposed or have doubts that the border wall is the best strategy:

Rep. Will Hurd, R-TX, whose district includes 800 miles of the 2,000-mile border: "Building a wall from sea to shining sea is the most expensive and least effective way to do border security." - TX Public Radio: <http://tpr.org/post/us-reps-hurd-and-castro-join-rally-show-unity-between-us-mexico-communities#stream/0>

Sen. John McCain, R-AZ, said the wall and the president's plan to have Mexico pay for it is "not a viable option." - The Hill: <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/317776-mccain-mexico-paying-for-border-wall-not-a-viable-option>

Sen. John Cornyn, R-TX, (#2 Republican in Senate) - Dallas Morning News: "Like most Texas officials in both parties, he opposes a full-length border wall as wasteful. 'When I hear the president talk about a wall, to me I think he's speaking metaphorically.'" <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2017/03/29/put-border-wall-mexicos-side-trumps-interior-secretary-raises-eyebrows>

Questions for town halls:

1. Will you oppose the \$3 billion request from the White House to fund the wall and mass deportation regime?
2. We already waste over \$20 billion a year to detain immigrants and tear families apart. We should not be spending even more money on mass deportations when we are cutting funds for education, jobs and veterans. Will you vote no on the request for \$3 billion to fund the wall and the detention and deportation force?
3. President Trump and his staff have said many hateful and racist things about immigrants. Will you oppose his efforts to instill terror in immigrant communities and vote no on the request for an additional \$3 billion for mass deportations and a wall?
4. The Trump Administration has arrested and detained several immigrants in retaliation for their activism. Will you vote against the expansion of his immigration enforcement budget and oppose the \$3 billion in additional funds for the rest of 2017?
5. Doubling the number of immigration and customs enforcement agents is likely to result in racial profiling of [me, my family, neighbor, coworker]. Will you oppose the White House's request for an additional \$3 billion to fund the mass deportation regime?
6. **For Democrats and Republicans who already oppose the wall:** In addition to blocking funding for the border wall, will you commit to voting against any expansion of the Department of Homeland Security budget to increase immigration enforcement officers, build new detention centers or otherwise expand the number of detention beds?