
Defund the Mass Detention & Deportation of Immigrants Tell Congress to Fund Families, Not Fear

Within one week of being sworn-in, President Trump issued several executive orders that changed our immigration system. In addition to the Muslim and refugee ban, the Administration has essentially eliminated all priorities and discretion from immigration enforcement. The Administration is directly adopting the policy recommendations of anti-immigrant organizations such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). These policies, along with the hateful anti-immigrant rhetoric coming out of the Administration, are creating a climate of fear and rising racism and xenophobia.

The Administration does not distinguish those people who pose a danger from those with deep ties to this country. Arrests of immigrants with no criminal record have [more than doubled](#) this year. Southeast Asian refugees with very old convictions, who came to the U.S. at a very young age and are now long-time permanent residents, are being rounded up, detained, and deported to countries they have no connections to. This is not making our country safer. By going after all undocumented immigrants and deportable lawful permanent residents, this Administration is creating great fear within immigrant communities.

In addition, the Administration is seeking to significantly expand the immigration deportation force by adding 1,000 Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, increasing militarization at the U.S. border, and expanding immigrant detention facilities.

Detention & Deportation of Immigrants

This Administration already has all the tools it needs to detain and deport millions of immigrants—unnecessarily separating people from their loved ones.

- 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.
- **Everyone is a priority for deportation:** Mothers and fathers, who have lived in the U.S. for over 10 years with U.S. citizen children, are being deported.
 - Although the President says that DREAMers can “rest easy,” ICE continues to apprehend [individuals granted DACA](#).
 - The Administration is reopening deportation cases of people that ICE previously allowed to stay, depriving people of due process, and refusing to grant bonds for immigrants fighting their deportation cases. The result is that people with potential relief and a right to stay are being deported without due process.
- **There are no more safe locations:** Immigration agents are violating the Administration’s own “sensitive locations memo,” which restricts immigration agents from engaging in

enforcement in schools, places of worship and hospitals. Disturbingly, immigration agents are sweeping people up at churches, schools, and hospitals.

- In February, ICE agents conducted an “[early morning ambush](#),” apprehending a handful of men as they left a hypothermia shelter in a church in Alexandria, VA.
- ICE is arresting parents while they are [dropping their kids off at schools](#).
- ICE is [arresting people in courthouses seeking protection from domestic violence](#).
- In a likely violation of the Geneva conventions, [child refugees fleeing the threat of murder are being denied even a basic credible threat hearing](#).
- **Communities are less safe:** [Fewer victims are reporting sexual assault](#) and domestic violence across the country. Immigrants are less willing to go to the police as a result of policy changes and harsh immigration rhetoric.

The Proposed Budget

The President’s budget included \$23.5 billion (an increase of nearly 25%) to fund a deportation force designed to tear families apart. This comes at the expense of vital and life-saving refugee resettlement and investments in communities through education, housing, healthcare, nutritional assistance programs and promotion of a clean environment. ***It’s up to Congress to decide whether to fund the mass detention and deportation of immigrants that is ramping up fear throughout our communities.***

At the same time, President Trump has proposed to gut critical refugee accounts that are necessary for protecting and serving refugees and other vulnerable populations domestically and internationally. Trump has proposed **a \$218 million, or 31%, cut** to domestic refugee resettlement programs. The President’s budget request also comes at the expense (a 59% decrease) of programs that assist low-income and middle-income families.

The proposed budget would:

- Add a deportation force of 1,000 new U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and 500 hundred new Border Patrol officers.
- Fund 51,000 detention beds – a 50% increase from 2016 – which would result in new private prisons that will detain kids and families who are fleeing violence.
- Make local law enforcement agencies an extension of the deportation force; turn neighborhood police officers into immigration agents; increase racial profiling and discourage people from reporting crime or asking for help.
- Fund the construction of the first section of a massive border wall between Mexico and the U.S.
- Add 70 prosecutors to criminally prosecute immigrants for simply crossing the border and fleeing violence or poverty (52% of federal prosecutions are already for immigration-status related crimes).

The Government Funding Process

The House Homeland Security funding bill largely provided the White House what it requested in terms of funding the agents and the wall. The House passed a defense spending bill that slipped in \$1.6 billion to begin construction on the border wall. The Senate has not taken up that bill. The Senate has also not yet filed a homeland security funding bill and the Government will run out of funding on September 30th. Since Congress is not very far along in the budget and funding process, the leadership of both parties will most likely negotiate a spending bill in September to keep the government from shutting down. It is important that all the Members of Congress and all Senators express their opposition to funding a detention and deportation force and the wall at the Southern Border.

Defund the policies that are motivated by hate, tweet using #DefundHate

Take Action!

Tell your Representatives and Senators to defund the deportation & detention force. Specifically ask them to:

- Publicly support cutting spending for detention beds, immigration agents, and blocking funding for the wall.
- Tell their party leaders that cutting funding for the mass deportation force and detention beds is a high priority for them.