Tell Congress: No Funds for Exclusionary, Enforcement Only Policies

President Trump issued multiple executive orders that target immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and Muslims. These orders further an exclusionist agenda that does not represent the welcoming communities across the United States. As people of faith, we are called to stand against these discriminatory policies.

Members of Congress can use their "power of the purse" to stop these plans in their tracks and ensure billions of dollars don't go toward expanding immigration enforcement, separating families, or detaining children. Trump is asking Congress for an additional $7.5 billion in fiscal years 2017 and 2018, over and above last year's funding for immigration enforcement, at the expense of vital education, housing, and nutritional assistance programs that promote public safety and alleviate poverty. Now is our chance to tell our Members of Congress to live up to our values and act with moral authority.

What is President Trump requesting?

President Trump is asking for **$3 B** in additional funding *before the end* of this fiscal year (September 30, 2017), including:

> **$1.2 B** to build capacity to hire more immigration agents in the field, expand the 287(g) program, which deputizes local police to serve as federal immigration enforcement agents, and expand detention and deportation. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) wants to expand the number of immigrants in detention on a daily basis to 45,700. Much of these funds would go to private prison corporations.

> **$1.4 B** for additional border wall construction, surveillance technology deployment, and infrastructure development.

> **$286 M** to begin the process of hiring additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, with no articulated plan to remedy the history of impunity within the agency or address the needs of border communities who have asked for additional oversight and accountability mechanisms.

For next fiscal year (FY18), President Trump has outlined **$4.5 B** additional money for Department of Homeland Security, including:

> **$2.6 B** to continue construction of a concrete, 30-foot wall along the U.S. / Mexico border.

> **$1.5 B** additional money to detain immigrants and expedite deportation. Expanding detention means even fewer people will have adequate access to legal recourse and due process in order for their story to be heard, and thus the U.S. will be deporting people back into harm's way.

> **$314 M** to hire 500 more CBP agents and 1,000 more ICE agents.

> **$15 M** to implement mandatory E-Verify without accompanying safeguards or reforms.

At the same time, President Trump has proposed to gut critical refugee accounts that are necessary for protecting and serving refugees and other vulnerable population domestically and internationally. While the President's detailed FY18 budget request has not been released, his FY17 budget request would reduce funding for the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account by $99 million. And his FY18 general budget would eliminate the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) account, an important foreign policy tool that allows the U.S. to respond to rapidly-occurring and unforeseen needs in displacement crises that would otherwise result in regional instability. Recently, the account has been used in Sudan, Mali and Syria.

Congress has the responsibility to take back the power of the purse by robustly funding refugee assistance and resettlement and refusing to fund Trump's wall, deportation force and detention centers.

Take Action: Make Sure Your Members of Congress Hear from You

Congress passed a short term funding bill for the current fiscal year (FY17) that expires **April 28**. They could attach the defense / immigration enforcement supplemental funding request to whatever mechanism they choose to fund the end of the year, or they could pass it as a stand-alone bill. At the same time, Congress is drafting their own budget for next year (FY18) that needs to pass the House and Senate. Regardless of the mechanism, funding immigration enforcement is harmful for communities.

Take these three steps to tell your members of Congress to oppose funding for a deportation force, border wall, and expanded detention:

1) **CALL your member of Congress at 866-961-4293***

   *Please call this line 3 times to be connected with your 1 Representative and 2 Senators

   Sample Script: "*I'm your constituent from [City, State, Zip Code], and I urge you to NOT fund President Trump's wall, deportation force and detention centers, and instead do everything in your power to rescind his immigration and refugee executive orders. Our tax dollars should be spent alleviating poverty and investing in our future — not rounding up our community members. My community welcomes refugees and immigrants.*"

   Please also share a personal story about why welcoming immigrants and refugees is important to you, your community, etc. Let them know the specific ways that immigrants and refugees contribute and are welcomed in your community.

2) **MEET with your member of Congress over April recess (April 10-21)**

   Use our Neighbor to Neighbor toolkit to get a group together and request a meeting with your member of Congress. If your member of Congress is not available to meet individually, set up a meeting with their district staff or a phone call with their policy staff in DC. You can also see if there is a public event near you by visiting their website or checking out Town Hall Project.

3) **TWEET at your member of Congress**

   Find your members of Congress' twitter handles here. Sample tweets:

   - .@HANDLE, show that #AmericaWelcomes. Refuse to fund Trump's wall, deportation force & detention centers #NoBanNoWallNoRaids
   - .@HANDLE, stop Trump from targeting refugees and immigrants. Don't fund his deportation force. #NoBanNoWallNoRaids
   - .@HANDLE, Don't fund Trump's morally reprehensible EOs. Stand against them & refuse to fund them. #NoBanNoWallNoRaids
   - .@HANDLE, $6.6 billion on immigration enforcement, or 121K new elementary school teachers or nearly 100K new middle-class jobs