



Congress: Don't Expand the Deportation Force, Immigrant Detention, or Border Militarization

President Trump has requested billions of dollars more from Congress to hire more immigration enforcement and border patrol agents, permanently expand immigrant detention - including for women, children, and asylum seekers - further militarize bi-national and indigenous border communities, and build costly and ineffectual additional border wall infrastructure. At the same time, he has proposed slashing refugee resettlement and international assistance for displaced persons. As people of faith, we are called to stand against this kind of wasteful and discriminatory spending.

- » **Congress should invest in long term solutions rather than endless enforcement.** Any additional funding for agents, detention beds, and border militarization means permanent, expensive changes to the immigration enforcement machinery and billions of dollars spent without addressing the problem: a punitive, outdated immigration system. We call upon Congress to develop bipartisan, comprehensive reform that will offer lasting and real solutions on immigration and fund international programs that help address the root causes of migration.
- » **Further fueling the deportation machine and slamming the door for people in need does not represent welcoming communities across the United States.** We invite Members of Congress to live up to our nation's values and act with moral authority. During the worst displacement crisis in history, the U.S. must demonstrate leadership by robustly funding refugee resettlement and support for vulnerable populations in the U.S. and funding humanitarian assistance overseas.
- » **Additional funding for endless enforcement comes at the expense of vital community programs.** Education, housing, and nutritional assistance programs promote public safety and alleviate poverty. Poverty-focused international assistance reduces the need for people to have to migrate. Any additional funding for enforcement would reduce funding for these critical programs. Congress has an opportunity to ensure billions of dollars don't go toward expanding the deportation machine, separating families, or detaining children, and instead are invested in our collective future.

Please oppose funding an expansion of immigration enforcement and detention in FY18 and robustly fund refugee resettlement in the U.S. and assistance abroad.

interfaithimmigration.org

For more information, contact Interfaith Immigration Coalition co-chairs:

Hannah Evans, Friends Committee on National Legislation, hannah@fcnl.org

Tammy Alexander, Mennonite Central Committee U.S., talexander@mcc.org

June 2017