May 2018

Addendum to the Report: “Building the Wall: A New War on Immigrants”

Since our report was published on April 12, 2018, additional noteworthy developments in immigration include:

- A federal court decision keeping DACA in place and giving the government 90 days to justify ending the program and oral argument before the USSC regarding Trump’s Muslim ban.

- Office of Refugee Resettlement Data revealing that over 700 children have been forcibly separated from their parents on the SW Texas border since October 2017, including over 100 children under the age of 4. Caitlin Dickerson, “Hundreds of Immigrant Children Have Been Taken for Parents at U.S. Border,” The New York Times, April 20, 2018.

- Trump’s tweet on April 18, 2018 that “There is a Revolution going on in California. Soooo many Sanctuary areas want OUT of this ridiculous, crime infested & breeding concept” Op-Ed, Dana Milbank, “Is it a coincidence that Trump uses the language of white supremacy?,” The Washington Post, April 20, 2018.

- An April 2018 “Legal Case Study: Summary Report” of our immigration court system commissioned by the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) has been blatantly disregarded by this Administration. The findings recommend changes that would “increase judicial independence, place a premium on process over outcome, and ensure due process.”

- Just two weeks after their first announcement, the Department of Justice determined it would reverse course and will not terminate the Legal Orientation Program – a program that provides important legal information to roughly half of the detained population across 38 detention facilities. “Justice Department Will Not Halt Legal Orientation Program for Detained Immigrants, Reversing Course for Now,” American Immigration Council, April 25, 2018.

- On May 9, 2018, Representative Carlos Curbelo (R-Fla.) filed a discharge petition that would force votes on immigration bills under the so-called “queen of the hill” rule, if signed by a majority of House members. Mike DeBonis, “Renegade Republicans challenge Paul Ryan, file discharge petition to force immigration votes,” The Washington Post, May 9, 2018.

- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) is considering introducing sweeping legislation to overhaul the immigration court system that would establish independent tribunals with trial and appellate divisions. Law 360 Newsletter, May 11, 2018.