March 7, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chairman Thad Cochran
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: FY 2018 Appropriations Bills
Urging reduction in funding for immigration and border enforcement

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to ask you to oppose President Trump’s request to fund the construction of a wasteful border wall and the expansion of an indiscriminate deportation force that targets immigrant youth and long-term residents. The White House request inflates last year’s bloated immigration and border enforcement budget to a grand total of $21.5 billion which is more than the United States spends on all other law enforcement agencies combined. **We urge you to significantly reduce funding for immigration enforcement and detention in the FY2018 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Justice (DOJ) appropriations bills.**

We can no longer treat funding for immigration detention and enforcement as business as usual. In light of the gridlock to pass permanent protections for Dreamers, every dollar appropriated for
immigration enforcement is a dollar that can and will be used to jail and deport these young Americans and their families. President Trump and his appointees have eliminated all prioritization and discretion from the system. There is no room for consideration of a person’s equities, including length of time living in the U.S., ties to their communities, or U.S. citizen children. By expanding expedited processing and subjecting bona fide asylum seekers to increasingly prolonged detention, DHS is undermining due process and regularly deporting people who should be receiving protection under U.S. laws. By unleashing this force with inadequate limitations, the Administration has fostered an unprecedented attack on immigrant communities which threatens our education system, our local businesses, and our nation’s values.

Congress must demonstrate its power of the purse and refuse to reward an agency replete with chronic fiscal mismanagement, inadequate oversight and a penchant for covering up serious allegations of misconduct¹. Furthermore, mismanagement and neglect of the immigration detention system has resulted in a network of 200+ jails riddled with abuse and rights violations, including the excessive and arbitrary use of solitary confinement, abuse of force by officers, and deaths attributable to medical negligence. In light of these concerns, Congress should move to decrease ICE’s funding, not bail them out.

Appropriating money without justification on the southern border does more to harm U.S. citizens on the border than improve public safety. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has not used money that it has already been appropriated to hire agents and construct border infrastructure. It is fiscally irresponsible to give the Border Patrol more money to hire additional agents when the agency cannot maintain the minimum number of agents authorized by Congress. Further, Border Patrol agents, like ICE agents, routinely undertake community enforcement operations that separate families and tear apart communities. CBP even goes so far as to brag about these actions, recently claiming they were “helping” a young girl en route to the hospital for emergency surgery by stopping and initiating deportation proceedings against her. There is additionally a troubling history of misconduct at CBP. Within CBP, more than 95% of all cases of alleged misconduct by Border Patrol agents resulted in “no action taken,” including very serious allegations of physical abuse and sexual assault. DHS itself concluded in September 2017 that the southern border is ‘more difficult to illegally cross today than ever before.’ In light of apprehension numbers at the southern border that are at a 45-year low, lack of effective oversight and accountability, and no demonstrated need for additional funds based on either sound data analysis or community input, Congress should cut funding for CBP.

We also oppose the legislative rider added by Congressman Newhouse to the House Appropriations spending bill for the Department of Homeland Security on July 18, 2017, which would open up the

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¹ For more, see the report “ICE Lies: Public Deception, Private Profit” from the Detention Watch Network and National Immigrant Justice Center, January 2018.
uncapped H-2A program to year-round jobs. Such a drastic change to the program should not be considered without reforms that improve the program and legalize the professional farmworkers that are currently the backbone of the agricultural industry.

We urge you to pass permanent protections for Dreamers and to refuse to implement mass deportation and incarceration policies. Given the current excess capacity that has already permitted a dramatic increase in arrest and detention of well-respected long-term residents, any increase in funding will undoubtedly cause more community heartbreak. We believe that scarce taxpayer funds should be spent on building up communities, investing in families, promoting growth and economic security and investing in adequate oversight and accountability of immigration and border enforcement agencies. Our nation needs solutions to our immigration system that benefit our country rather than wasting billions of taxpayer dollars on policies that hurt public safety and our economy.

Sincerely,

National [129]

Action Together Network (ATN)
Alianza Americas
America's Voice
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Center for American Progress (CAP)
Center for Community Change (CCC)
Center for Employment Training
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Popular Democracy
Christian Community Development Association
Church World Service
Coalition on Human Needs
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd - US Provinces
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
CREDO
Daily Kos
Democrats for Education Reform
Detention Watch Network
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Earthjustice
ECODiversity Magazine
Enlace
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement
Farmworker Justice
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA)
Franciscan Action Network
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers)
Government Information Watch
GreenLatinos
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
Herd on the Hill
HIAS
Hip Hop Caucus
Hispanic Federation
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Immaculate Heart Community
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Indivisible
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Interfaith Worker Justice
InterReligious Task Force on Central America
Jobs With Justice
Justice Strategies
Latin America Working Group
Latino Victory Fund
Latinos for a Secure Retirement
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
MALDEF
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mercy Ecology, Inc.
Mi Familia Vota
MomsRising
MoveOn.org Civic Action
Muslim Public Affairs Council
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)
National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
National Health Law Program
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latina/o Psychological Association
Native American Community Academy Inspired Schools Network (NISN)
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
NextGen America
Oxfam America
Partnership for Working Families
Positive Women's Network - USA
Presente.org
Project South
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
Quixote Center
RESULTS Columbus
Salaam Legal Network
School Sisters of Notre Dame - Central Pacific Province
School Social Work Association of America
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth - Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth - Western Province Leadership
Sisters of the Good Shepherd - National Advocacy Center
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Southeast Asia Resource Center (SEARAC)
Southern Border Communities Coalition
Southern Poverty Law Center
Student Action with Farmworkers
Teach Plus
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
UltraViolet
UndocuBlack Network
UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza)
UNITE HERE
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
United We Dream
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Voices for Progress
Voto Latino
Washington Office on Latin America
We Belong Together
Women's Refugee Commission

**State and Local** [225]

*Alabama* [1]
Equality Alabama

*Arkansas* [4]
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Arkansas Justice Collective
Arkansas United Community Coalition
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*Arizona* [6]
Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
BorderLinks
Global Family Legal Services
The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project
Kino Border Initiative
Stand Indivisible Scottsdale

*California* [61]
AB 540 Ally Training Project
Alameda Health Consortium
Alianza
API Equality - LA
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
California Food Policy Advocates
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)
Central American Resource Center of Northern CA
Centro del Inmigrante, Inc.
Centro Laboral de Graton
Centro Legal de la Raza
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chula Vista Partners in Courage
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc
Community Law and Mediation Services
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Courage Campaign
East Bay Community Law Center
Employee Rights Center
Faith in Action Bay Area
Faith in the Valley
Franciscans for Justice
Immigrant Youth Coalition
Immigration Action Group
Immigration Center for Women and Children
Indivisible Conejo
International Institute of the Bay Area
Jubilee Immigration Advocates
La Raza Centro Legal
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
Monarch Services
OneJustice
Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)
Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers
Pangea Legal Services
Peninsula Progressive Action Group
PICO California
Public Law Center
St. John of God Church
Salud Para La Gente
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.
San Francisco Peninsula People Power
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
Sisters of St. Francis - St. Francis Province
Social Justice Collaborative
SOMOS Mayfair
South Bay People Power
STEP UP Sacramento
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City - Social Action Committee
University of Southern California International Human Rights Clinic
University of California Hastings Center for Gender and Refugee Studies
UpValley Family Centers of Napa Count
Village Community Resource Center
Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS)
West Marin Standing Together - Immigration Action Committee

Colorado [5]
Bethany Immigration Services
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)
Colorado People's Alliance
Immanuel Fellowship Church
United for a New Economy

Connecticut [1]
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible

Delaware [1]
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families

Florida [5]
The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Friends of Broward Detainees
Pax Christi Florida
WeCount!

Illinois [13]
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
HANA Center
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Indivisible Aurora
Indivisible Norwest Illinois
Indivisible West Suburban Action League
Indivisible Western Springs and Surrounding Communities
Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants
Jewish Voice for Peace - Chicago
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
Project IRENE

Indiana [1]
Indiana National Organization for Women

Iowa [3]
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque
Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA

Georgia [5]
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta
First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta - Social Justice Guild
Georgia Detention Watch
Georgia Stand-Up
Women Watch Afrika

Kansas [1]
Catholic Agency for Migration & Refugee Services

Kentucky [2]
NKU LULAC
Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, KY

Maine [1]
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project

Maryland [3]
Bethesda Presbyterian Church
CASA
DC-Maryland Justice for Our Neighbors

Massachusetts [3]
Action Together Massachusetts
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Michigan [1]
Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids

Minnesota [4]
Fairmont, MN Peace Group
Immigrant Law Center of MN
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, MN
OutFront Minnesota

Missouri [2]
Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project
St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin American (IFCLA)
Nebraska [8]
Grand Island Latino Network
Heartland Workers Center
Latino Center of the Midlands
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
Nebraska Commission on Latino American Affairs
Schlegel Center for Service and Justice
The Trinidad Center
Unity in Action

Nevada [1]
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada Action Fund (PLAN Action)

New Hampshire [1]
NH Conference United Church of Christ - Immigrant and Refugee Support Group

New Mexico [7]
Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) - Las Cruces
EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos
Encuentro
New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.
NM Comunidades en Acción y de Fe
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
Santa Fe Dreamers Project

New Jersey [7]
Action Together NJ Atlantic County
First Friends of NJ & NY
Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Make the Road New Jersey
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
Reformed Church of Highland Park
Unitarian Universalist FaithAction New Jersey

New York [21]
Adhikaar
Atlas: DIY
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
Church Women United in New York State
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Families for Freedom
Gay Asian Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY)
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Her Justice
Indivisible Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Ossini, Peekskill (CCoHOPE) - Immigration & Social Justice Committee
Indivisible Nation BK
Long Island Wins
Make the Road NY
MinKwon Center for Community Action
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
UnLocal, Inc.
WESPAC Foundation

North Carolina [2]
Equality North Carolina
Sisters of Mercy - South Central Community

Ohio [5]
Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center
Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH - Leadership Team
Ohio Council of Churches

Oklahoma [1]
University of Tulsa College of Law - Immigrant Rights Project

Oregon [3]
Centro LatinoAmericano
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice(IMIrJ)
Latinx Alliance of Lane County

Pennsylvania [9]
Asian Americans United
CASA
Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern Peace Center
New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC)
Sisters of St Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM)

South Carolina [3]
Grassroots Alliance for Immigrant Rights
Hilton Head for Peace
Immigrant Connection - Greenville Multicultural

Texas [11]
American Gateways
Austin Sanctuary Network
En Confianza
La Unión del Pueblo Entero
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Migrant Center for Human Rights
Migrant Rights Collective
Pantsuit Republic
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County
University Leadership Initiative
Wilco Justice Alliance (Williamson County, TX)

Utah [1]
Action Utah

Virginia [1]
CASA

Vermont [1]
Migrant Justice / Justicia Migrante

Washington [13]
Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
Columbia Legal Services, Washington State
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Indivisible Skagit
Indivisible Wallingford
Indivisible WA-4
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC)
LIFT (Local Immigrant Family Treasury)
OneAmerica
Skagit Immigrant Rights Council
Tri-City Democrats
Tri Cities Immigrant Coalition
Walla Walla Immigrant Rights Coalition

Washington, D.C. [1]
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition

Wisconsin [5]
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI
End Domestic Abuse WI
Latino Academy of Workforce Development
Voces de la Frontera
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Wyoming [1]
Immigration Alliance of Casper