

Resolution to End Funding for Human Rights Abuses at the US Border

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has adopted a policy of seeking to deter asylum seekers from coming to the United States by instituting practices that include: i) separating children from their parents; and ii) detaining children in inhuman facilities where they are subject to mistreatment and abuse and deprived of adequate food, shelter, safety, supervision, and medical care;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's treatment of immigrant asylum seekers violates human rights, the ethical standards of the United States of America, and international and domestic law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, the Geneva Convention, and the Flores Settlement Agreement;

WHEREAS, these practices are funded by US taxpayer dollars and, to the extent we permit these practices to continue without objection, all US taxpayers are complicit in these human rights violations;

WHEREAS, the United States can and should adopt standards for the treatment of detained asylum seekers that reasonably control immigration without violating the human rights of asylum seekers;

WHEREAS, in the recent legislation providing humanitarian aid for children detained in immigration camps, Progressive House Democrats sought to include in the law an enactment of minimum standards of care required to be provided to asylum seekers, and Senate Republicans successfully prevented the inclusion of such standards in the legislation;

WHEREAS, going forward, Democrats in the House and the Senate should use the power of the purse to prohibit the continuing commission of human rights violations by the Trump administration at our border;

The Four Freedoms Democratic Club Hereby Resolves:

- Congress should refuse to enact any spending bill funding ICE or any other agency enforcing US immigration policy unless this spending bill conditions funding of these agencies upon requirements that these agencies: i) end the regular practice of separating the children of immigrants from their parents; ii) maintain adequate food, shelter, supervision, safety and medical care for all detained by these agencies; and iii) and provide access to legal counsel to protect their rights, including the right to timely release; and
- We call upon our elected representatives to advocate for these requirements in any bill providing funding for ICE.