[DATE]

The Honorable [Insert Name of Congressperson]

[Insert Respective Address]

Dear [Name of Congressperson],

On behalf of [name of organization], we are writing to express our strong opposition to the federal administration’s “zero-tolerance” policy that includes separating children from their parents. This new administration's policy harms our families and puts our values of strong families and safe communities at risk in Washington State. As a leader in our community, we ask you to take immediate and appropriate actions to repeal these “zero-tolerance” policies and work to advance improved policies for all children and families.

Since October 2017, the U.S. government has forcibly separated at least 2,400 children—including many who are under four years old—from their parents as they arrive on our southern border seeking refuge. In Washington State, 206 asylum seekers were transferred to the Federal Detention Center (FDC) in SeaTac, 45 of these asylum seekers are parents who have been separated from their children. On June 20, 2018 Immigration and Customs Enforcement reported that 36 of the asylum seekers had been transferred to Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. All 36 asylum seekers are parents who were separated from their children.

We are united in the belief that separating families, as well as detaining them together indefinitely, is morally unacceptable and traumatic for parents and children. We have collectively invested in our communities and families, but the current “zero-tolerance” policy directly undermines our work of creating a vibrant community for all, where families are safe and children can pursue their dreams.

As an elected representative of Washington State, we ask you to represent the interests of our communities in Congress to enact long overdue immigration reform that reflect justice and equity, that protects Dreamers and keeps families united. We urge you to pass legislation to rescind the “zero tolerance” policy, end local police collaboration with ICE, and put an end to the inhumane treatment of immigrants.

We all have a moral responsibility to uphold the values of our country of compassion, community, and family.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

District 1: Suzan DelBene

District 2: Rick Larsen

District 3: Jaime Herrera Beutler

District 4: Dan Newhouse

District 5: Cathy McMorris Rodgers

District 6: Derek Kilmer

District 7: Pramila Jayapal

District 8: David Reichert

District 9: Adam Smith

District 10: Denny Heck