

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Congress Will Not Fund Border Wall, but Still Targets Immigrants in Approved Budget Bill**

**Washington, DC – May 1, 2017** – Today, Congress released the details of a compromise bill to keep the government funded for the rest of the fiscal year. The deal includes an additional \$1.5 billion in border security—an increase to the \$20 billion that is currently spent on immigration enforcement, including some additional funds to prepare for hiring immigration agents.

Congress also denied the administration funding to begin construction of a border wall and provided no new funding to hire additional immigration agents, a move that has slowed the administration's immigration plans and a signal to civil rights groups to keep up their advocacy efforts on behalf of immigrants.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice, an affiliation of five civil rights organizations, released a statement about the continued targeting of immigrants by the new administration.

“While the border security funding is significantly lower than the \$5 billion requested by the White House, we are disappointed that Congress is increasing the immigration enforcement budget. We are particularly disappointed to see increased funding for detention beds, especially when border crossings are at historic lows. This money is a waste of taxpayers' dollars and will contribute to the harmful mass deportation force that is instilling terror in communities across the nation.

Today, as we celebrate May Day, Asian Americans Advancing Justice opposes administration policies that further an anti-immigrant agenda, including the funding of a mass deportation force. We join with other civil rights, immigrants' rights, labor and faith organizations to reject the administration's hateful rhetoric and policies that seek to scapegoat and vilify immigrants, refugees, Muslims, and people of color. We will continue to advocate for fair, humane and just immigration policies.”

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Asian Americans Advancing Justice is a national affiliation of five leading organizations advocating for the civil and human rights of Asian Americans and other underserved communities to promote a fair and equitable society for all. The affiliation's members are: Advancing Justice - AAJC (Washington, D.C.), Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, Advancing Justice - Atlanta, and Advancing Justice - Chicago.