

The Honorable Mike Enzi  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
379 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Chair, House Budget Committee  
402 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Ranking Member, House Budget Committee  
2412 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Enzi, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Yarmuth, and Ranking Member Womack:

We the undersigned national, state, and local organizations support significant cuts in funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the agencies behind President Trump's harmful detention, deportation and border militarization regime.

We are disappointed by the funding increases in the Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations Bill and call upon Congress to commit to reducing funding for this administration's white nationalist border militarization and immigration enforcement policies. Taxpayer dollars should be spent on critical programs that make our communities strong and vibrant such as education, healthcare, green infrastructure, and housing rather than fueling abusive agencies that terrorize communities and separate families.

The Trump Administration showed the depths of its cruelty toward immigrant communities in fiscal year 2018. Just at our southern border, Border Patrol agents have forcibly [separated thousands of families](#), [tear-gassed asylum seekers](#) including toddlers, and regularly flouted international law by [denying the right to seek asylum](#) at the border. This abuse is happening despite the fact that the [total number of border apprehensions](#) are at the lowest point in decades and each Border Patrol agent apprehends, on average, fewer than 2 people a month. Deplorable conditions and inadequate medical care in border facilities also contributed to the [tragic deaths of two young children](#), Jakelin Caal Maquin and Felipe Alonzo-Gomez. The border wall has a devastating toll on border communities, wildlife and the environment. President Trump's declaration of a national emergency shows the administration's dedication to fear mongering around a manufactured crisis that is built on racist lies and disregard for U.S. and international law.

ICE has continued to grow its vast network of over 200 detention centers, perfecting the agency's [multi-year tactic](#) of overspending its appropriated funds and then repeatedly demanding that Congress bail it out with increased funding for the next year. This gradual ramp up resulted in a historic high in mid-March, of over [50,000 individuals](#) jailed by ICE each day. As ICE expands, more people are dying in ICE custody because of [medical neglect](#), [abuse](#), and a total [lack of concern](#) for the value of immigrant lives. ICE also continues to [target parents](#) of unaccompanied children, ramp up [workplace raids](#), [collude with USCIS](#) to detain people attending biometrics appointments, and [arrest people at courthouses](#) all in an attempt to terrorize communities and force them into the shadows.

We are deeply disappointed with the passing of the [2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) because it increases funding to both ICE and CBP, including a 12% increase for immigration detention and \$1.375 billion for more border wall, and fails to rein in the agencies' ability to overspend and siphon money from other accounts. This increase in funding is wholly undeserved due to both agencies' track records of harmful policies, abuse, and mismanagement. As such, this increase in funding is tacit approval of this administration's attacks on immigrant communities across the country and those newly arriving at our borders and ports of entry.

As we look forward to fiscal year 2020, we urge Members of Congress to view the budget as a moral document that reflects our priorities and values as a nation. Congress must invest in programs and agencies that uphold our shared values of dignity and justice and divest from programs and agencies that flout those values at every opportunity. It is unacceptable to claim support for immigrant communities while continuing to grow the already inflated budgets for ICE and CBP.

We, the undersigned organizations, call on you to demonstrate bold leadership and commit to reducing funds to ICE and CBP for fiscal year 2020.

Signed,

**National Organizations:**

Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus  
Alianza Americas  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Popular Democracy

Christian Community Development Association  
Church World Service  
Conference of Superiors of Men (Catholic)  
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Detention Watch Network  
Daily Kos  
Densho  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Dominicans of Sinsinawa  
Earth Justice  
EqualVoteLocal  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
Faith in Action  
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement  
Free Migration Project  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Fuerza Mundial Global  
GreenLatinos  
Habonim Dror North America  
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)  
Health Justice Innovations, LLC  
Hope Border Institute/Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration Hub  
Indivisible  
Jobs With Justice  
Justice Strategies  
Latin America Working Group  
LATINOJUSTICE PRLDEF  
MomsRising  
MoveOn  
Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC)  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Network for Arab American Communities  
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
NETWORK Lobby  
New Progressive Alliance  
New Sanctuary Coalition

Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Service Employees International Union  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
Shut Tornillo Down Coalition  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of Mercy South Central Community  
Socialist Alternative  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
South East Asian Faith Initiative  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The Workmen's Circle  
Trans empowerment project  
UltraViolet  
UndocuBlack Network  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United We Dream  
Uri L'tzedek  
Woodstock Institute  
Workplace Fairness  
Yemeni American Merchants Association - YAMA

**State and Local Organizations:**

NW Philadelphia Immigrant Action and Mobilization  
Adelante Alabama Worker Center  
Adhikaar  
Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention in the Chihuahuan  
Desert  
AFSC Colorado  
Alianza Sacramento  
Amend Law LLC  
American Gateways  
Arab American Association of New York  
Arizona Jews for Justice  
Asian American Organizing Project  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service

Asian Pacific Community in Action  
AVIDCD  
Border Patrol Victims Network  
Buddhist Cohort-Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc.  
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) DC  
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America -CRLN  
Children's Defense Fund - Texas  
Church of Our Saviour/La Iglesia de Nuestro Salvador  
Church Women United in New York State  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Comunidades Unidas en una Voz  
Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee  
DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network  
Don't Separate Families  
DRUM: Desis Rising Up and Moving  
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance Immigration Justice  
Action Team  
El Refugio  
Eleven 11 Consulting  
End Domestic Abuse WI  
End Family Separation and Detention  
Faith in action Bay Area  
Faith in Indiana  
Faith in New York  
Faith in Texas  
First Friends of NJ & NY  
Florence Area Democratic Club  
Friends of Broward Detainees  
Friends of Miami-Dade Detainees  
Georgia Detention Watch  
Granite State Organizing Project  
H-CAN Immigration and Refugee action group  
HANA Center  
HIAS Pennsylvania  
Hilton Head for Peace  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant Justice Action Group, First Unitarian Portland  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigration Committee, Congregation Hakafa  
Indivisible for Immigration  
Indivisible Vashon  
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
Institute of Chicax Psychology  
Inter-faith Coalition on Immigration

Interfaith Welcome Coalition  
ISAI AH  
Japanese American Citizens League - Seattle  
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice  
Kids for College  
La Union Hace La Fuerza  
Laredo Immigrant Alliance  
Latinos Unidos Siempre  
Legal Services for Children  
Lents Strong Housing  
Lents Strong Housing  
Mainers for Accountable Leadership  
Make the Road NY  
Make the Road PA  
Massachusetts Communities Action Network  
Migrant Center for Human Rights  
Migrant Justice / Justicia Migrante  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
Mission Presbytery Immigration Task Force-Texas  
Missouri Faith Voices, A Faith in Action Federation  
Multnomah Friends Meeting (Quakers)  
Network Against Racism and Islamophobia-Portland  
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
NM CAFE  
North West Philly Immigration and Mobilization  
Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
OneAmerica  
Orange County Congregation Community Organization  
Pangea Legal Services  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
Pittsburgh LCLAA  
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC)  
Portland Jobs With Justice  
Public Counsel  
Queens Neighborhoods United  
Quixote Center, Inc.  
RAICES  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
Rouser  
Rural and Migrant Ministry  
Rural Organizing Project  
Sacramento Area Congregations Together  
Shut Down Etowah

South Asian Workers' Center  
South Texas Human Rights Center  
St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)  
STEP UP! Sacramento  
Suneater  
Together Colorado  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
United Valley Interfaith Project  
UnLocal  
Vashon - Maury SURJ ~ Showing Up for Racial Justice  
VELA  
Vermont Interfaith Action  
Voz Workers' Rights Education Project  
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project  
Wayne Action for Racial Equality

cc: Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger