

PREVENT CRUEL DETENTION AND DEPORTATION PRACTICES

Under President Trump, arrests of undocumented immigrants in the interior of the United States increased by 40 percent in 2017. During his first month in office, President Trump issued an executive order calling for a 10,000-person increase in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) force and an additional \$4.4 billion for detention and removal efforts. By empowering this force, the Trump administration is putting in motion policies that would increase detentions and deportations, and tear families apart.

7 REASONS NOT TO INCREASE DEPORTATIONS:

- 1. Massively expanding ICE in such a short period of time could result in a draconian and unaccountable deportation force.**
Hiring 10,000 new agents would triple the force, and without strong recruitment standards and agent oversight protocols in place, ICE risks becoming more unaccountable and vulnerable to abuses.
- 2. This deportation force would be devastating to immigrant families and communities in the United States.**
According to a 2013 University of Arizona survey of deported Mexican immigrants, more than half have a family member who is a U.S. citizen, and one in four had a U.S. citizen child. It is estimated that over 4.1 million U.S. citizen children under the age of 18 have at least one parent that is undocumented.
- 3. ICE arrests of individuals with no criminal record beyond immigration-related charges have increased.**
ICE reported that arrests increased by 40 percent from the beginning of the Trump administration until the end of FY2017. During this period, 17 percent of the arrests and deportations involved people without criminal records, which is more than twice the rate of “non-criminal arrests” seen in 2016.

4. Many immigrants facing deportation from the United States have no access to representation.

According to a January 2015 analysis by Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), less than 30 percent of over 26,000 individuals who had been prioritized for removal were able to find legal representation. Without representation, only 1.5 percent of the families were allowed to stay in the United States. A recent study by TRAC also showed an increase in the number of asylum claim denials, as well as in the number of asylum seekers who lacked legal representation.

5. An increase in detention beds is unwarranted.

Apprehensions of migrants at the border are down by almost 26 percent compared to FY2016. The pressure to fill beds will lead ICE to lock up more asylum seekers, and detain and hold more people in the interior of the United States without concern for the vulnerability of those detained.

6. There are more cost-effective alternatives to detention.

A 2014 Senate report found that on average, it costs the United States \$266 per day to hold a migrant in detention. Meanwhile, alternatives to detention—more humane and cost-effective measures such as ankle bracelets, home visits, and telephone monitoring, so as to ensure that individuals appear for their immigration hearings—cost an average of \$7 per day per person.

7. Mass deportations will not effectively address gang violence in the United States.

Gangs in the United States often target undocumented immigrant communities because residents may hesitate to report crimes for fear of deportation. Police chiefs have testified before Congress saying that increasing deportations will destroy trust in law enforcement and hamper investigations.