

December 3, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Minority Leader Schumer and Ranking Member Lowey:

We, the undersigned New York-based immigration, civil and human rights, legal, faith, labor, education, and community organizations urge you to reduce funding for the Administration's harmful immigration enforcement and family separation policies in the Department of Homeland Security FY 2019 budget, which is currently scheduled to run out on December 7.

New York has borne witness to the cruelty of this administration's policies. From the hundreds of migrants apprehended at the southern border who have been torn from their families and sent to New York jails under ICE custody, to Border Patrol terrorizing our bus and train stations looking for community members with deep roots in the community to arrest and detain, to ICE recklessly profiling and detaining Latino youth on Long Island. Furthermore, by terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of people, the administration engaged in yet another type of family separation policy--Congress must also ensure these communities are protected.

Any increase in funding to DHS will only facilitate family separations, cause irreparable harm to the border region, and incentivize mass detention and deportation—policies that tear apart the fabric of our families and communities.

Specifically, we urge you to remain steadfast that the DHS budget not include any additional funding for:

- the hiring of additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents,
- the hiring of additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents,
- the expansion of immigrant detention space, or
- the building of an unnecessary southern border wall.

The United States already spends over \$20 billion on immigration enforcement, more than every other federal law enforcement agency combined. At the same time, the current administration has refused to use common sense prioritization on how to use its resources, instead favoring a free for all approach that has targeted our most vulnerable community members and needlessly caused pain and destroyed families and communities. ICE has also

failed to comply with many reporting requirements from the FY 2018 appropriations bill, continues to expand detention capacity by spending beyond its appropriated dollars, and has doubled-down on problematic contracting mechanisms already flagged by DHS's own Inspector General.

Every dollar added to this effort to criminalize immigrants and separate families undermines our values as New Yorkers and is a dollar that is not building our infrastructure, supporting our communities or promoting economic growth. We urge you to protect all New York families and to resist any and all efforts to expand this immoral deportation force.

Sincerely,

New York Immigration Coalition  
Asian American Federation  
CAIR New York  
Centro Corazon de Maria  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Council Of Peoples Organization, inc  
DEJUS CENTER (Worker's Defense Education & Justice)  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc  
GASI Inc.  
Grace Immigrant Outreach (GIO)  
Justice for Migrant Families WNY  
La Colmena  
Legal Services of Central New York, Inc.  
LSA Family Health Service  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
North Fork Spanish Apostolate  
OCA - WHV  
Plattsburgh Cares  
Presbyterian Church  
Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York  
Rockland Immigration Coalition  
S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.  
Sakhi for South Asian Women  
SEIU 32BJ  
SEPA Mujer Inc.  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
United Community Center of Westchester  
Unlocal, Inc.  
Yam Community Resource, Inc