

BACKGROUND ON OPPOSING TRUMP'S FUNDING REQUEST

The fight over funding for the detention and deportation machine is just getting started. Trump wants Congress to give him \$3 billion more dollars, *on top of* the billions the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has *already* received this year. This request for money (“appropriations”) is just the beginning. This is his first attempt to acquire the money he needs for his anti-immigrant and racist policies. Unless we stop this now, it will be harder and harder to fight his demands for more money later in the year. We anticipate that Trump’s budget for next year will include unprecedented amounts of money for walls, immigration police and immigration jails.

Money is one of the only barriers to Trump’s DHS fully enacting its hate-fueled detention and deportation nightmare. Stopping the flow of money is critical to stopping Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda.

What is the money for?

- \$1.4 billion to build more of the border wall, a hateful symbol of exclusion that will further militarize border communities.
- \$1.2 billion for more detention facilities which will fuel the private prison industry and further exacerbate existing, sometimes fatal, abuses occurring in detention centers.
- Preparation to hire 1,000 ICE agents in 2018 (out of 10,000 more agents total promised in Trump’s Executive Orders) so more ICE agents will roam communities conducting raids—including at churches and courthouses.
- Preparation to hire 500 more CBP agents (out of 5,000 more agents total promised in Trump’s Executive Orders), even though DHS doesn’t meet existing hiring goals because so many applicants fail their polygraph tests.

Call your Senators today and tell them that you don’t support giving Trump extra money for his hate-fueled detention and deportation policies. Throughout this script, replace “[Senator X]” with the name of your Senator. For more information, check out this [quick explainer](#).

SAMPLE CALL DIALOGUE

Caller: Good morning/afternoon! What is [Senator X’s] position on President Trump’s supplemental funding request for an extra \$3 billion for the Department of Homeland Security, on top of the billions the Department has already received this year?

OPTION ONE (HOORAY!): OPPOSES THE FUNDING REQUEST

Staffer: Thank you for calling! [Senator X] opposes the supplemental funding request for DHS.

Caller: That’s great! I’m calling to say that if [Senator X] truly believes, as I do, that this funding request amounts to a down payment on the anti-immigrant policies outlined in President Trump’s Executive Orders—policies that are cruel, needlessly expensive and will make us all less safe—then s/he should do everything s/he can to make sure Congress rejects it. I’m looking for assurance that [Senator X] will fight any new requests for money. DHS is already bigger than all other federal law enforcement agencies; it does not need new money to carry out its work.

Will s/he commit to take a stand on this issue by:

- publicly stating her/his opposition to the funding request,
- personally communicating that opposition to his/her leadership, and

- committing to vote no when this request comes up for a vote?

Staffer: I'll need to check in with [Senator X] about whether or not he/she wants to make any public statements, but I do know that he/she plans to vote no when this comes up to a vote.

Caller: I'm so glad to hear that [Senator X] plans to vote no. Please pass along my thanks to the Senator, as well as my encouragement to make a public statement opposing the funding request so that he/she can be a model for other Senators to do the right thing as well.

OPTION TWO (BOO!): SUPPORTS THE FUNDING REQUEST

Staffer: Thank you for calling! [Senator X] supports the supplemental funding request.

Caller: That's terrible. That means that [Senator X] supports Trump's immigration Executive Orders. Trump is putting all the pieces in place for his expanded Deportation Force to carry out policies of detention and deportation. In addition to the wall, Trump wants to vastly expand detention facilities to lock up more immigrants while subsidizing the private prison industry, put more agents on the border, hire more ICE agents, expand operations that will terrorize communities, and re-direct more federal funds toward prosecution of immigration violations. Already under Trump, we have seen chaos at our airports and in our communities. That chaos and cruelty would only increase if Congress funds Trump's Executive Orders on immigration. A vote for this funding request is a vote against immigrants.

Staffer: [Senator X] doesn't view this as an endorsement of the Executive Orders. DHS has told Congress that they're running out of money, so this request is just to fill a gap in their funding until next year.

Caller: That's wrong. A vote for this funding request is absolutely a vote in favor of Trump's hate-fueled, anti-immigrant policies. Trump plans to cut core priorities like housing and environmental protections while dramatically expanding the size of our immigration police and detention camps. Our tax dollars should be spent combating poverty, expanding access to healthcare, and promoting public safety--not separating immigrants from their families and communities. Trump wants to grow the ranks of ICE and border patrol officers, some of the most corrupt law enforcement agencies in the country, guaranteeing that even more individuals' rights will be abused. He wants to write a blank check to the private prison industry, so that they can make even more money off of the backs of immigrants and American taxpayers. Is this really what [Senator X] wants to support?

OPTION THREE (NOT GOOD ENOUGH): DODGES / HAS NO POSITION

- **Staffer:** Thank you for calling! I'm not sure about the details of the supplemental request and [Senator X] has not taken a position on it. I'm happy to take down your concerns.

Caller: That's disappointing to hear. This is a very important issue for our country and its future.

Here is my concern: Trump is putting all the pieces in place for his expanded Deportation Force to carry out his policy of mass deportation. In addition to the wall, Trump wants to vastly expand detention facilities to lock up more immigrants while subsidizing the private prison industry, put more agents on the border, hire more ICE agents, expand operations that will terrorize communities, and re-direct more federal funds toward prosecution of immigration violations. Already under Trump, we have seen chaos at our airports and in our communities. That chaos and cruelty would only be magnified if Congress funds Trump's Executive Orders on immigration.

In order to show that s/he is on my side, I expect [Senator X] to:

- publicly state her/his opposition to the funding request,
- commit to vote no when this request comes up for a vote?

Will [Senator X] take these steps?

Staffer: I will certainly pass on your concerns to [Senator X].

Caller: Please do, and please take down my contact information to let me know when [Senator X] has made up his/her mind. I'm eager to hear what s/he decides.

Have edits, improvements or feedback? Great, we want to hear it! Email Mary Small at [msmall \[at\] detentionwatchnetwork \[dot\] org](mailto:msmall@detentionwatchnetwork.org)