

Defund the Detention and Deportation Machine

A quick explainer on cutting off the money
#DefundHate



Money is one of the only barriers to Trump's DHS fully enacting its hate-fueled detention and deportation nightmare. In his 2018 budget, President Trump not only requested A LOT more money for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (which includes Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP)) but also for parts of the Justice Department (DOJ) that will play a role in the mass criminalization of immigrants. Among other harmful things, he asked for:



- A massive increase in immigrant detention—to 51,379 people in detention every day. This means locking up the equivalent of the entire population of New Orleans over the course of a year,



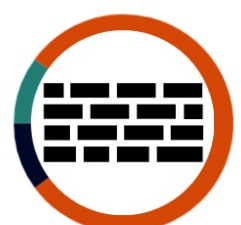
- Funds to recruit and hire 500 additional Border Patrol agents and 1,000 additional ICE officers,



- Money to hire more US Attorneys to conduct more immigration-related criminal prosecutions,



- More local police to focus on immigration enforcement,



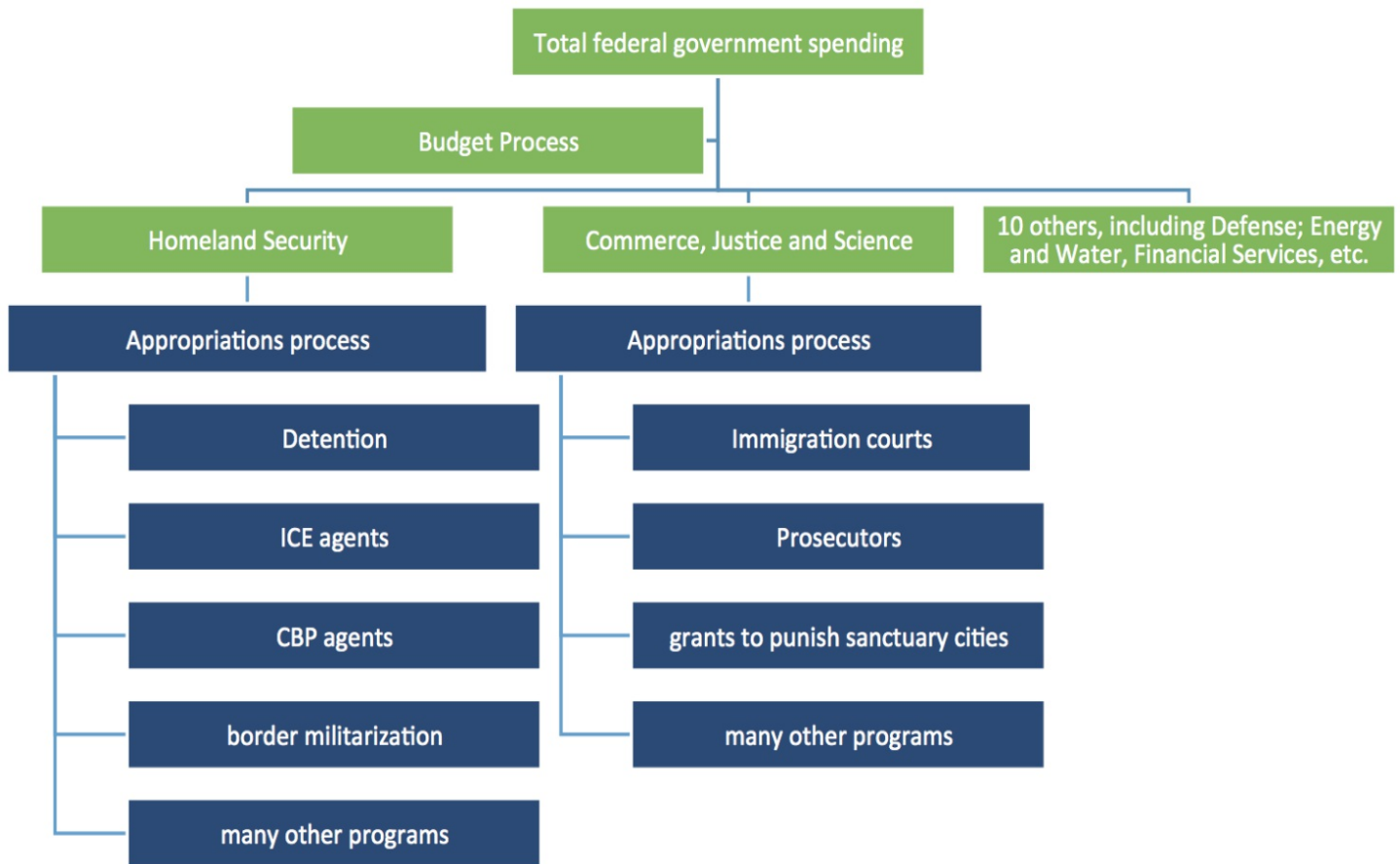
- \$1.6 billion to build a southern border wall, and further border militarization including aircraft and surveillance technology.

Even though the President can make funding requests, Congress is ultimately the decision-maker when it comes to federal spending. For a long time, even Senators and Representatives who have said they support immigrant communities and publicly condemned aggressive immigration enforcement have quietly voted to fund it.

Both parties have been complicit in driving more and more taxpayer dollars to the enforcement, detention and deportation machine. This has to stop.

The Federal Funding Process

Every year, Congress makes decisions about how to spend taxpayer dollars—first by setting overall amounts of money to be spent in 12 big buckets during the budget process (green below) and then by dividing the money in each bucket among different programs in the appropriations process (blue below).



Stopping the flow of money is critical to stopping the Trump anti-immigrant agenda.

This means we need to do three things:



- In the budget process: decrease the amount of money going to the Department of Homeland Security.
- In the appropriations process say:
 - not one more penny for detention, ICE or CBP agents, or border militarization;
 - no attacks on sanctuary cities;
 - no more immigration prosecutions.
- Throughout: get all progressive champions to publicly push for significant cuts to funding for the enforcement, detention and deportation machine.

In the past, we've focused on funding for Homeland Security, but with Attorney General Sessions at the helm, the Department of Justice is playing an increasingly significant role in the criminalization of immigrants—most notably through pursuing more immigration-related criminal prosecutions and retaliating against people and cities who refuse to participate in federal immigration enforcement. These efforts are key components of a broader attempt to suppress dissent and justify harsh enforcement through criminalization. For more information: <http://bit.ly/2stnele>

What's the timeline?

Current federal spending bills expire on September 30, 2017. By then Congress will have to either pass a big NEW spending bill or pass a temporary extension of current spending bills (continuing resolution, CR) in order to avoid a government shutdown.

We are very concerned that members of Congress will work out a compromise spending bill by the end of the summer or early fall. The House has already started drafting bills, and we need to pressure our Representatives now (see ideas below.) Negotiations have also begun in the Senate. The Senate will make the final decision on what pieces of the spending bills move forward.



Progressive champions

who must begin talking publicly about significant cuts to the enforcement, detention and deportation machine.

Republican leaders in the House

including Rep. Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, and Rep. Freylinghuysen, Appropriations Committee Chair.

Senate leaders

who are involved in negotiating the final deal; see list here: <http://bit.ly/2uuTFkO>

Members of the Budget and Appropriations Committees

especially members of the subcommittees that handle money for DHS or DOJ; see a list here: <http://bit.ly/2uuTFkO>

All Members of Congress

wherever you live, make sure that your Representative and Senators oppose funding for the enforcement, detention and deportation machine!

Who are the targets?



We've seen that powerful organizing and constituent pressure can change the outcome of something that previously seemed inevitable. Even with the White House and Congress controlled by openly anti-immigrant politicians, we can still win.

So how can I take action?

Request a meeting with a member of Congress for August recess.

- Decide who—among your two Senators and Representative—you want to target. Please reach out if you need help deciding!
- As soon as possible, request a meeting with your target during August recess.
- Plan for your meeting (more information here: starting on page 23: <http://bit.ly/1Ukqlwe>)

Engage your local media.

- Submit an op-ed (more information here: <http://bit.ly/2tN6VDK>)
- In response to an article about immigration or federal spending, submit a letter to the editor (more information here: <http://bit.ly/2tN6VDK>)
- Make sure the media always knows about any events you are planning (media advisory and press release templates here: <http://bit.ly/2tN6VDK>)
- Don't know what to say? Some ideas for how to talk about this here: <http://bit.ly/2tWh5R>

Escalate! If your target refuses to meet with you or during your meeting refuses to commit to opposing funding for the enforcement, detention and deportation machine, create an escalation plan to add pressure. Possible ideas include:

- A press conference or rally at your target's office.
- Bird-dogging. Research your target's schedule—especially public events—to confront them directly about their position on funding for the enforcement, detention and deportation machine. Plan to video your interaction! (see an example here: <http://bit.ly/2tMIRRk>)
- A town hall or community forum. Invite your target. If they refuse to come, make the townhall about defunding the enforcement, detention and deportation machine and about your target's unwillingness to meet with their constituents.

Use social media to amplify your work.

- Use #DefundHate
- Social media toolkit. Target specific graphics with breakdowns of what Trump's budget would fund in your state here: <http://bit.ly/2volK00>

Integrate defunding the enforcement, detention and deportation machine into ongoing local campaigns.

- Potential points of connecting between the federal spending bills and your local advocacy include:
 - Shutting down a detention center: The money from this funding fight will be used to expand detention centers or build new centers in your state.
 - Fighting for sanctuary city policies: The federal spending bills will likely be used to eliminate or weaken sanctuary city policies and laws by threatening to take away funding from the cities who have them.
 - Anti-287g campaigns: The federal spending bills will be used to fund more police officers who act as immigration agents.

