

September 5, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Dave Joyce
Chair, Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chis Murphy
Chair, Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Homeland Security

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned 193 national, state, and local organizations representing millions of people across the country, including directly impacted immigrant communities, border communities, faith leaders, and civil and immigrant rights advocates, urge you to reject the White House's supplemental funding and reprogramming requests for detention, enforcement, and surveillance operations within the Department of Homeland Security. As Congress is already considering appropriating billions of dollars for the next fiscal year for agencies separating immigrant families and militarizing border communities, granting this funding request will only inflict greater harm.

The funds requested for DHS would:

- Provide nearly \$1 billion in unrestricted funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP);
- Grant over \$100 million in added funding for invasive surveillance programs;
- Reimburse the Department of Defense for military deployments to the border;
- Authorize ICE to develop a grant program for new "community-based residential facilities," which would effectively reinstate family detention by another name

Congress should not simply hand \$917 million to ICE and CBP for "response to migration surges." This would only perpetuate the abuses already rampant within these agencies' detention and enforcement operations. Just a few weeks ago, [news broke](#) of a DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties report on ICE detention in which "the expert inspectors found 'negligent' medical care (including mental health care), 'unsafe and filthy' conditions, racist abuse of detainees, inappropriate pepper-spraying of mentally

[disabled] detainees and other problems that, in some cases, contributed to detainee deaths.” Meanwhile, [evidence suggests that CBP has been colluding with Texas state police](#) to implement Operation Lone Star, [policies which include forcing children and nursing women back into the Rio Grande using razor wire, denying water to asylum seekers suffering in extreme heat](#), and installing a [floating river barrier armed with saw blades](#). Border Patrol detention also claimed the life of 8-year-old [Anadith Danay Reyes Álvarez](#) in May and agents in Arizona shot unarmed [Raymond Mattia](#) nine times that same month, both tragedies extending the agency’s deplorable track record of “[preventable](#)” custodial cruelty and excessive force. More money enables more such abuses and deaths.

Further, Congress should not provide DHS with additional funds for [cross-border data sharing](#) and surveillance technology that harms border communities and invades the privacy of all people, regardless of immigration status. The [HART database will vastly expand the agency’s already terrifying](#) biometrics data collection and [systematically abused](#) surveillance power. Military deployments, too, exacerbate dangerous false narratives surrounding the border, while doing nothing to provide humane aid and access to legally mandated relief that asylum seekers actually need. Additionally, the “voluntary returns” referenced in the supplemental request are nothing of the sort, and instead represent a coercive practice in which DHS officers strongarm uncounseled asylum seekers to give up their claims and return to danger, rather than supporting their legal right to seek asylum.

Finally, Congress *must not* grant ICE the reprogramming authority it seeks to fund the development of “community-based residential facilities,” which are [reportedly envisioned](#) for asylum seeking families and would in effect reinstate family detention by another name. Though these facilities would be operated by non-governmental organizations, the program would still be housed under ICE and require organizations to restrict people’s freedom of movement during certain hours and allow enforcement personnel on site—creating another form of custody that still leaves migrants vulnerable to the harms of enforcement. Further, we are concerned that the administration intends to create these facilities outside of the existing minimal standards of oversight and care, creating another arena where the abuses detailed above can be perpetuated. Immigrant children and families should be welcomed with dignity, into networks of loved ones where communities actually support individuals humanely, instead of further dehumanizing them via surveillance and abuse.

The supplemental also includes a request for additional funds for the Shelter and Services Program. Funding for communities and localities welcoming people as they seek a better life and safety in the United States is a critical investment that we support and encourage Congress to consider. However, we continue to advocate for this program to be moved out of CBP’s purview and for [urgent concerns](#) that have been identified with the designation and distribution of funds to be remedied.

Our tax dollars should not go towards further harm and abuse. Again, we urge you to reject the supplemental funding and reprogramming requests outlined above for Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

Sincerely,

18 Million Rising
Action 21
Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation- KC
Afghans For A Better Tomorrow
Al Otro Lado
Alianza Americas

Alianza Sacramento
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
American Gateways
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Amnesty International USA
Arizona Justice For Our Neighbors
Asian American Advocacy Fund
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
Athena Coalition
Avodah
AZ Immigration Association
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - California
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - Champaign-Urbana
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - Long Island
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - Maryland
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - NorCal Chapter
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - Ohio
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - Pittsburgh
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - Riverdale
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action - South Jersey
Bergen County Immigration Strategy Group
Border Kindness
Border Patrol Victims Network
Boston University School of Law Immigrants' Rights and Human Trafficking Program
Bridges Faith Initiative
Buen Vecino
Casa Freehold
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
Catholic Worker
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Central American Resource Center of Northern California - CARECEN SF
Close The Camps NJ
Coalición de Derechos Humanos
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Cobalt
Coloradans for Immigrant Rights
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)
Community Justice Exchange
Compañeros
Comunidades Sin Fronteras CSF-CT INC
Convivir Colorado
Cosecha New Jersey
Council on American-Islamic Relations

Defending Rights & Dissent
#DetentionKills Transparency Initiative
Detention Watch Network
Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services inc
Dissenters
Eagle Pass Border Coalition
El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas
Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities (EMAC)
Faith In New Jersey
Faithful Friends
Families For Freedom
Fight for the Future
First Friends of New Jersey & New York
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Free Migration Project
Freedom for Immigrants
Government Information Watch
Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans
Haiti Solidarity Network of the North East
Hindus for Human Rights
Home is Here NOLA
Immigrant Children Advocates' Relief Effort
Immigrant Legal Defense
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Equality
Immigration Hub
Immigration Law & Justice Network
Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition
Indivisible
Innovation Law Lab
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
Interfaith Campaign for Just Closures
InterReligious Task Force on Central America
Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Community Action
Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
Justice Strategies
Keshet
Kino Border Initiative
La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)
Lamar Unidos
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Latin America Working Group
Latino Action Network
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Legal Aid Justice Center
Libyan American Alliance

Make the Road New Jersey
Make the Road NY
Marianist Social Justice Immigration Team
Mariposa Legal, program of COMMON Foundation
MediaJustice
Midwest Immigration Bond Fund
Minnesota Freedom Fund
Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration
MN8
Movement for Justice in El Barrio
MPower Change Action Fund
Muslim Advocates
Muslim Counterpublics Lab
Muslim Justice League
Muslims for Just Futures
NAKASEC
National Council of Jewish Women
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Nationalities Service Center
NETWORK Lobby for Social Justice
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Jersey Forum for Human Rights
New York Immigration Coalition
NorCal Resist
Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition
OneAmerica
Organizing Communities Against Detention (OCAD)
Our Revolution
Oxfam America
Pangea Legal Services
Paisanos Unidos
Parishioners for Peace & Justice
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)
Pax Christi Florida
Pax Christi Illinois
Pax Christi Little Rock
Pax Christi New Jersey
Pax Christi New York State
Pax Christi Northern California
Pax Christi USA
People's Action
Project South
Public Counsel
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
Quixote Center

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Secure Justice
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Showing Up for Racial Justice
Sierra Club
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Sky Island Alliance
Social Workers for Immigration Justice and Human Rights
Society of the flora, fauna & friend
Sojourners
South Asian Network
South Bay People Power
Southern Border Communities Coalition
SPLC Action Fund
Stop the Hate Collective
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Tahirih Justice Center
Teaneck Peace and Justice Coalition
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Bronx Defenders
The Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans
The Mami Chelo Foundation, Inc
The Shalom Center
Trans Queer Pueblo
Transformations CDC
Tsuru for Solidarity
UndocuBlack Network
Unidad Latina en Acción NJ
United We Dream Network
Upstate Pax Christi (NY)
Voces Unidas (RGV)
Washington Defender Association
We Are All America
#WelcomeWithDignity
Win Without War
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights