

June 19, 2018

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:



YWCA USA

1020 19th Street, NW
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036

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ywca.org

I write today on behalf of YWCA USA and our 210 local associations across the nation to urge you to VOTE NO on H.R. _____, the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act and H.R. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act.

Both H.R. _____ and H.R. 4760 would increase criminalization of communities of color and lack a clear, reasonable solution for DREAMers. Further, neither bill would end Attorney General Sessions' harmful "zero-tolerance" policy nor the Department of Homeland Security's practice of traumatically separating children from parents. As you know, the Administration refuses to change these policies and instead enforces cruel initiatives that have taken young children from their parents' arms and separately detained them in facilities some have compared to "concentration camps."

Specifically, the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act guts existing law and further exacerbates the child welfare crisis on the border. It:

- keeps children in prison-like detention centers for longer periods of time, without meeting minimum standards of living;
- makes it easier to deport more children more quickly to potentially dangerous - and sometimes deadly - conditions;
- shrinks the number of people who are able to flee trauma and violence in their home countries by making it more difficult to apply for asylum; and
- eliminates special protections for children, including services necessary for the well-being and healthy development of children.

Further, the bill would:

- subject DREAMers to an untested point system that would exclude many from gaining citizenship;
- increase the standard of proof for people seeking asylum from persecution, drastically reducing the number of admissions;

- eliminate the Diversity Visa program, which ensures immigrants from all countries have a fair chance to enter and to contribute to our nation; and
- prevent families already in the US from reuniting with loved ones, by eliminating entire categories of family-based visas, even though many have been willing to wait in line for years or even decades.



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The Securing America's Future Act would add to these callous policies by also foreclosing any path to citizenship for DREAMers, imposing a burdensome E-Verify system for employers who sponsor employee visas, and expanding interior enforcement.

YWCA has stood with women, children, and families for 160 years. We know that families are at the core of our nation's well-being, and that the trauma of separation from caregivers has lifelong negative impacts on children. Accordingly, we urge you to vote "NO" on H.R. _____, the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act and H.R. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act, and to speak out against policies that continue to forcibly break-up families. We stand ready to provide information to help highlight legislative and policy provisions that would best protect the health and safety of women, children, and families.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Y. Castillo
CEO, YWCA USA

YWCA USA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. Our more than 50,000 employees and volunteers in 47 states and the District of Columbia help over 2 million women, girls, and their families each year at YWCAs across the country. To read more about YWCA USA, visit www.ywca.org.