

**RESOLUTION OF THE
FRAMINGHAM DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
RELATING TO CERTAIN IMMIGRATION POLICIES
AS THEY AFFECT FAMILY RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, in 2008 Pres. George W. Bush created an immigration policy to combat the influx of children fleeing to the U.S. from Central American countries due to a surge of child trafficking;

WHEREAS, in August 2009, under Pres. Barack Obama the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau (ICE) created the Office of Detention Policy and Planning aimed at combating certain injustices created by Pres. Bush's immigration policy;

WHEREAS, over the ensuing seven years under Pres. Obama, ICE implemented a series of humanitarian measures for ICE's detainees to ensure, among other things: proper notifications when a detainee dies; adequate physical and mental health care; parole for those who could demonstrate a basis of fear of persecution in the event of repatriation; improvements in the conditions of confinement, such as increased recreation, contact visitation, and quality control; the ability for attorneys, family and friends to find a detainee and access information about the address and visiting hours of ICE facilities via a web-based detainer locator system; the minimization of long-distance transfers of detainees within ICE's detention system; the establishment of a zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual abuse or assault of individuals in ICE's custody; improvements in transparency and uniformity of detention, custody, and classification decisions; better conditions and housing for transgender detainees; and better monitoring and protection of pregnant detainees;

WHEREAS, in August 2013, ICE established a policy and procedure directive to ensure, without regard to a dependent's citizenship, that ICE immigration enforcement efforts do not undermine unnecessarily the parental rights of parents or legal guardians who are primary caretakers of minor children by allowing the children to remain with their parents or legal guardians throughout the immigration process;

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2017, the Trump administration, under the guise or ruse of family court protection for minors, adopted a zero tolerance policy on border crossings, known as Policy Number 11064.2, which governed the "Detention and Removal of Alien Parents or Legal Guardians" and mandated the removal of children from immigrant parents or legal guardians crossing borders into the U.S with their minor children;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has adopted a strategy of labeling all border crossings as "illegal" and "criminal" unless the person crossing into the US presents proper documentation and is permitted passage through traditionally accepted routes and methods;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has adopted a program of incarcerating new immigrants crossing our southern borders, separating their children from them, and placing the children in facilities far from those of their parents or legal guardians;

WHEREAS, between October 1, 2017, and May 31, 2018, at least 2,700 minor children (most of them in the past two months) have been separated from their parents or legal guardians;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration maintained for weeks that the Democrats caused the problems created by the child separation and that the Trump administration was powerless to resolve the issues without Congressional action;

WHEREAS, unprecedented pressure placed on the Trump Administration by the citizens of the United States, including previous First Ladies of the United States, to stop the lies and take executive action to cease the cruel policy of separating minor children from their parents;

WHEREAS, as a result of that pressure, on June 20, 2018, the President reversed his position by signing Executive Order 13841 titled, "Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation," which effectively halted the separation of children from their parents or legal guardians;

WHEREAS, EO 13841 provides that innocent children now be unlawfully incarcerated with their parents or legal guardians for crimes they are incapable of committing in contravention to the Constitution of the United States;

WHEREAS, the wording of EO 13841 prevents only future separations, there being no language in the Order that mandates reunification of the thousands of children that have already been forcibly separated from their parents;

WHEREAS, there is no mechanism for reunification established by the United States Government, and it is likely that the children currently unlawfully detained will remain so for the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS, the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics has recently issued a public statement diagnosing the actions of the Administration "as child abuse" and condemning the separation of already traumatized children from the one constant in their lives that could help them buffer all their horrible experiences, including the trauma of their trip up to the border;

WHEREAS, such treatment of minor children, the conditions of housing featuring kennel-like cages, and the practice of chaining children to fences for extended periods of time, constitute a human rights violation;

WHEREAS, many of these families have come to the U.S. lawfully to request asylum from violence and persecution in their own countries;

WHEREAS, such activities of asylum-seekers are protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States, their treatment as "criminals," and separation from their children and incarceration without due process are unlawful violations of the civil rights of such families and asylum seekers, causing trauma that, in many cases, will result in life-long injuries; and

WHEREAS, the crime the parents or legal guardians are being charged with is a misdemeanor.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Framingham Democratic Committee condemns the cruel policy of separating immigrant children from their parents and legal guardians, and demands the reunification of children so affected with their parents or legal guardians.

FURTHERMORE, the Framingham Democratic Committee calls upon its federal and state Senators and Representatives, state-wide officers, Mayor Spicer, and the City Council, to vehemently protest and bring awareness of this situation to the floors of their respective Chambers.

FURTHERMORE, the Framingham Democratic Committee calls upon our federal delegation to take action in the Senate and House of Representatives seeking bi-partisan rectification of the issues raised in this Resolution, and to hold hearings to determine the whereabouts of each child and his or her respective parents or legal guardians, and to pass legislation forcing the Administration to reunite each family within 48 hours of the effective date of passage.

FURTHERMORE, the Framingham Democratic Committee calls upon our State Attorney General to examine the facts of this illegal action and investigate the impact on the children and families of this Commonwealth, and determine whether any acts were carried out in furtherance of this cruel scheme within Massachusetts' jurisdiction and, if appropriate, to seek indictments against the appropriate persons within the Trump Administration.

FURTHERMORE, The Framingham Democratic Committee applauds the Framingham City Council for adopting an initial draft of this Resolution at its June 19, 2018, meeting instead of awaiting passage by the Framingham Democratic Committee, which would have added several weeks to its passage by the Council.

ADOPTED, by a vote of 25 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstaining, this 24th day of June, 2018.



Beverly Hugo, Chair