

Talking points

Since President Bush is the target and he has the authority to make a Presidential order to stop the deportations, we ask him to issue a Temporary moratorium on deportation to: Stop the raids! Stop breaking our families apart!

Reasoning for issuing a Temporary Moratorium on Deportation:

- Since the present immigration laws are very faulty, then applying them does not make sense; issue a moratorium.
- Even if the even if laws were adequate, their application is inconsistent and inhumane; issue a moratorium.
- Even if the even if laws were adequate, their consequences are horrible to children being left abandoned, families being broken;
- Issue a moratorium.

Abuse of power has been documented in various areas including Bridgeton NJ (bad cops) and Philadelphia (Mrs. Chiang). ICE may be doing its job, yet its actions criminalize innocent people and have consequences not foreseen by the laws.

We are not asking for a complete moratorium but a temporary moratorium on deportations for out of status detainees until new law goes into effect.

We are here together to speak out against the destruction of our families and our communities. In the last decade, over 1.5 million immigrants have been deported. American born children have been left without mommies and daddies and people who are not yet citizens fear that they could be next. These people are increasingly at risk of exile and blocked from being with their families here because of cruel deportation laws.

We as immigrants from around the world demand that Congress not just give us real immigration reform but demand a temporary moratorium on deportations that are leaving our children without parents and breadwinners.

Right now over 23,000 immigrants are locked up in detention centers around the country, waiting to be torn apart from their loved ones.

Immigration laws are not supposed to turn women into single mothers and leave children wondering where their parents are. For all the talk of family values, why don't some of our politicians value families of immigrants? Immigrants are not just a dollar sign. We are not just good for the economy-we are someone's mother or father, someone's sister or brother, someone's son or daughter.

The fight for immigrant rights is not just a fight "for" legalization, our fight is against deportation, our fight is for all immigrants' right, our fight is for real comprehensive immigration reform.

Repeal Cruel Deportation Laws – Keep Families Together and Communities Strong

- Millions of U.S. citizen children will be abandoned if we don't change the deportation laws. Under current law, children are erased from the equation as judges don't have the power to consider the harm to children that will result from their parents' deportation. After a deportation, children lose contact with a parent and families are torn apart. Children feel abandoned and are emotionally and financially devastated with consequences for their education and well-being. Imagine your child being left behind, thousands of miles away.
- Current laws rip families apart by permanently separating children from their parents, often for minor offenses for which deportation is an unfair and excessive punishment. Current proposals would only worsen the crisis that families already face. The government (DHS) would also send back countless families seeking safety from war, persecution, and violence.
- When an immigrant is detained, spouses and children are forced to fend for themselves. When a parent is detained, he or she turns from breadwinner to dependant and the consequences are emotionally and financially devastating. For example, spouses and children report that they face eviction from their homes because they can not keep up mortgage payments. Spouses are turned into single parents.

What are we asking? Every family deserves a fair day in court. This includes a full and fair hearing, the right to an attorney and the right to have their case reviewed in federal court.

Building Jails Doesn't Fix Our Broken Immigration System

- Detention is ineffective and inefficient: Even though the number of detention beds has tripled since 1994 to 23,000, there has been no impact on migration. In 2004 Congress authorized 40,000 additional beds and is currently considering expanding it by 10,000 more. Where does this stop?
- Under existing laws, many immigrants are kept in detention throughout their civil (non criminal) proceedings without the opportunity for a court hearing to decide whether they could be released. These include undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers and individuals with minor violations, as well as long term permanent residents with strong community ties. Locking people up in jails and military bases for years at a time without review by a judge does not reflect democratic values of fairness and justice for all.

- Detention costs taxpayers: In 2006, the US government spent \$90 million on detention alone at an average daily cost of \$85 per bed. DHS is ignoring more cost effective secure alternative programs that cost on average \$12 per day per bed.
- Detention costs families: The costs of detaining immigrants are much higher than just the cost of “bed space” and personnel. The costs of detention also include lost tax revenues from detaining people, rather than letting them work, and the increased welfare, medical and emotional costs that occur when a family is broken up and a primary breadwinner is detained.
- Detention is lining the pockets of wealthy corporations: Multinational corporations are benefiting from detaining immigrants (one of the fastest growing stocks in the country) because our government has created a financial incentive to build prisons for immigrants.