



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONGRESS FROM THE NATION'S MAYORS CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE REUNIFICATION OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN WITH THEIR FAMILIES

Dear Mr. President and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate:

We write to stand in solidarity with the 18 mayors who travelled to Tornillo, Texas on June 21 to see firsthand the conditions there in the tent city housing several hundred unaccompanied immigrant children. Unfortunately, federal authorities denied the mayors admission to the facility, just as they had other elected officials at this and other detention facilities.

The mayors who came to Tornillo were Democrats and Republicans, from cities large and small across the country. They were united in their call for the Administration to return as quickly as possible the thousands of children separated from their parents as a result of the Administration's Zero Tolerance Policy. The mayors also called for a policy of transparency that would allow elected officials and the public to know what is happening in these facilities and what the process will be for reuniting children with their families.

The mayors assembled in Tornillo at the invitation of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, an organization which, a week earlier, had unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Administration to immediately reverse the policy of separating children from their parents at the border and allow apprehended families to remain together to the extent possible.

As mayors, we see firsthand, every day, the positive impact that immigrants have on our communities. They contribute in countless ways to our economic and cultural strength. But we also see the impact that our nation's broken immigration system - and the policies stemming from it - are having on our cities. This broken system creates fear and uncertainty, which has a detrimental effect on the safety, health and wellbeing of our residents.

The nation's mayors, therefore, call on the Administration to:

- Move quickly and openly to return separated children to their parents; and
- Provide local and state leaders full access to and information regarding children separated from their parents who have been sent to their jurisdictions and regions so that they can help to make sure these children are getting the services they need.

Further, we call on Congress to:

- Enact whatever legislation is needed to make sure that separated children and their parents can be quickly reunited, and include safeguards to ensure that family separation never again plays a part in our nation's immigration policy; and
- Enact a permanent solution to this and other immigration problems by developing and passing bipartisan legislation that will fix our nation's broken immigration system.

Sincerely,

Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor of Columbia, SC
President

Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills
Vice President

Greg Fischer
Mayor of Louisville
Second Vice President

Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor of Burnsville
Past President

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CEO and Executive Director

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Mesa, AZ

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Newark, CA

Mayor Patrick J. Furey
Torrance, CA

Mayor Mark W. Mitchell
Tempe, AZ

Mayor Josh Fryday
Novato, CA

Mayor John J. Duran
West Hollywood, CA

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
Tucson, AZ

Mayor Libby Schaaf
Oakland, CA

Mayor Christopher L. Cabaldon
West Sacramento, CA

Mayor Lioneld Jordan
Fayetteville, AR

Mayor Michael M. Vargas
Perris, CA

Mayor Suzanne 'Zan' Jones
Boulder, CO

Mayor Tom Tait
Anaheim, CA

Mayor Thomas K. Butt
Richmond, CA

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Denver, CO

Mayor Mary Casillas Salas
Chula Vista, CA

Mayor Darrell Steinberg
Sacramento, CA

Mayor Joe Ganim
Bridgeport, CT

Mayor John J Bauters
Emeryville, CA

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
San Diego, CA

Mayor Luke Bronin
Hartford, CT

Mayor Catherine S. Blakespear
Encinitas, CA

Mayor Sam Liccardo
San Jose, CA

Mayor Toni N. Harp
New Haven, CT

Mayor Sam Hindi
Foster City, CA

Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter
San Leandro, CA

Mayor Harry Rilling
Norwalk, CT

Mayor Lily Mei
Fremont, CA

Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor
Santa Clara, CA

Mayor Shari Cantor
West Hartford, CT

Mayor Robert Garcia
Long Beach, CA

Mayor David Terrazas
Santa Cruz, CA

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Washington, DC

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles, CA

Mayor Michael D. Tubbs
Stockton, CA

Mayor Peter Simmons
Bonita Springs, FL

Mayor Leonard Siegel
Mountain View, CA

Mayor Glenn Hendricks
Sunnyvale, CA

Mayor Joe Coviello
Cape Coral, FL

Mayor Derrick L. Henry Daytona Beach, FL	Mayor Thomas Broderick Jr. Anderson, IN	Mayor Jacob Frey Minneapolis, MN
Mayor Francis X. Suarez Miami, FL	Mayor Thomas 'Tom' C. Henry Fort Wayne, IN	Mayor Ardell F. Brede Rochester, MN
Mayor Oliver G. Gilbert III Miami Gardens, FL	Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson Gary, IN	Mayor Melvin Carter St. Paul, MN
Mayor Buddy Dyer Orlando, FL	Mayor Pete Buttigieg South Bend, IN	Mayor Sylvester 'Sly' James Jr. Kansas City, MO
Mayor Frank C. Ortis Pembroke Pines, FL	Mayor Sharon Weston Broome Baton Rouge, LA	Mayor Lyda Krewson St. Louis, MO
Mayor Gregory J. Oravec Port St. Lucie, FL	Mayor LaToya Cantrell New Orleans, LA	Mayor Debra March Henderson, NV
Mayor Andrew D. Gillum Tallahassee, FL	Mayor Patrick L. Wojahn College Park, MD	Mayor Hillary Schieve Reno, NV
Mayor Bob Buckhorn Tampa, FL	Mayor Jeffrey Z. Slavin Somerset, MD	Mayor Mark J. Sokolich Fort Lee, NJ
Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms Atlanta, GA	Mayor Martin J. Walsh Boston, MA	Mayor Alberto G. Santos Kearny, NJ
Mayor Hardie Davis Jr. Augusta, GA	Mayor Yvonne M. Spicer Framingham, MA	Mayor Adrian O. Mapp Plainfield, NJ
Mayor Teresa Pike Tomlinson Columbus, GA	Mayor Alex B. Morse III Holyoke, MA	Mayor Liz Lempert Princeton, NJ
Mayor Robert A.B. Reichert Macon, GA	Mayor Ruthanne Fuller Newton, MA	Mayor Tim Keller Albuquerque, NM
Mayor David H. Bieter Boise, ID	Mayor Mike Duggan Detroit, MI	Mayor Kenneth D. Miyagishima Las Cruces, NM
Mayor Tari Renner Bloomington, IL	Mayor Andy Schor Lansing, MI	Mayor Alan Webber Santa Fe, NM
Mayor Rahm Emanuel Chicago, IL	Mayor Kurt R Metzger Pleasant Ridge MI	Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan Albany, NY
Mayor Stephen H. Hagerty Evanston, IL	Mayor William R. Wild Westland, MI	Mayor William W. Moehle Brighton, NY
Mayor Nancy Rodkin Rotering Highland Park, IL	Mayor James B. Hovland Edina, MN	Mayor Byron W. Brown Buffalo, NY

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New Rochelle, NY

Mayor David J. Berger
Lima, OH

Mayor Dee Margo
El Paso, TX

Mayor Bill de Blasio
New York, NY

Mayor David Holt
Oklahoma City, OK

Mayor Sylvester Turner
Houston, TX

Mayor Gary R. McCarthy
Schenectady, NY

Mayor Denny Doyle
Beaverton, OR

Mayor Ron Nirenberg
San Antonio, TX

Mayor Lydia Lavelle
Carrboro, NC

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Portland, OR

Mayor John Thomaides
San Marcos, TX

Mayor Steve Schewel
Durham, NC

Mayor Salvatore J. Panto Jr.
Easton, PA

Mayor Allison Silberberg
Alexandria, VA

Mayor Nancy Barakat Vaughan
Greensboro, NC

Mayor Don M. Hahn
State College, PA

Mayor McKinley L. Price DDS
Newport News, VA

Mayor Dontario 'Don' Hardy
Kinston, NC

Mayor James A. Diossa
Central Falls, RI

Mayor Jimmy Matta
Burien, WA

Mayor Al Heggins
Salisbury, NC

Mayor Jorge O. Elorza
Providence, RI

Mayor Cheryl L. Selby
Olympia, WA

Mayor John Cranley
Cincinnati, OH

Mayor Kim McMillan
Clarksville, TN

Mayor John Marchione
Redmond, WA

Mayor Frank G. Jackson
Cleveland, OH

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Knoxville, TN

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan
Seattle, WA

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther
Columbus, OH

Mayor Jim Strickland
Memphis, TN

Mayor Victoria Woodards
Tacoma, WA

Mayor Nan Whaley
Dayton, OH

Mayor David Briley
Nashville, TN

Mayor Allan Ekberg
Tukwila, WA

Mayor Lydia L. Mihalik
Findlay, OH

Mayor Steve Adler
Austin, TX

Mayor Steve Williams
Huntington, WV

Mayor Michael P. Summers
Lakewood, OH

Mayor Mike Rawlings
Dallas, TX

Mayor Paul R. Soglin
Madison, WI