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Contact:

House Republicans Approve Budget Aimed at Terrorizing, Separating Immigrant Families Nationwide

Albuquerque Immigrants' Rights Organizations Denounce the Fueling of Trump's Inhumane Deportation & Enforcement Machine

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Yesterday, in a show of hateful rhetoric, the Full House Appropriations Committee approved the FY2018 budget –on a completely partisan vote– aimed at fueling the inhumane enforcement and mass deportation plan by the Trump regime.

As the funding bill heads to the House floor, the approved budget is allocated as follows:

- \$4.4 billion for detention and removal programs, including: 44,000 detention beds, an increase 4,676 beds over fiscal year 2017; and 129 Fugitive Operations teams.
- \$1.6 billion for construction of President Trump's wall along the Southern border – including bollards and levee improvements – meeting the full White House request;
- \$100 million to hire 500 new Border Patrol agents;
- \$185.6 million to hire 1,000 additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and 606 support staff;
- \$131 million for E-Verify, a Dept. of Homeland Security web-based program that is known for being fraught with errors, resulting in discrimination and in the unlawful firing of workers across the nation.

The following is a joint statement from local leaders and members of Listo NM regarding yesterday's House Appropriations Committee vote:

Fabiola Bawden, community organizer from El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos said, "The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 supercharges President Trump's costly and cruel approach to immigration and does not reflect the values of the majority of New Mexicans. Trump's plan promises to target, persecute, and separate our families by appropriating \$4.4 billion dollars of taxpayers money for detention beds, \$1.6 billion for the border wall, and nearly \$300 million to expand an already bloated ICE and border patrol. "In New Mexico, we understand that this means Trump's deportation machine is targeting our families, friends, neighbors, classmates, small business owners, workers, tax-payers, and faith communities.

“El CENTRO condemns the DHS’s Appropriations bill as it would dramatically increase border and immigration enforcement and threaten the safety of our communities by expanding the apprehensions and deportations of family members, children and others with strong ties to New Mexico and to communities across the nation. El CENTRO’s message is loud and clear: we demand that not one dollar is allocated for separating families. We continue to urge lawmakers at all levels to stand up and work with our communities to protect our families and focus on policies that recognize the contributions of our community, are conducive to immigrant integration and economic growth, and that foster and reflect the values that we strive to achieve as nation: justice, equity, fairness, and family.”

Adriel D. Orozco, NMILC Equal Justice Works Fellow and Attorney said, “It is appalling that the federal government continues to expand immigration enforcement to unprecedented levels. If we learned anything during Obama’s presidency it is that we need rational and dignified immigration policies that protect individuals’ civil rights and create economic opportunities for all immigrants to further benefit our country.

“It is deplorable that some Congressmen continue to fund the terror that Trump’s immigration enforcement is creating in New Mexico and across the country.”

Eva Eitzen, NMILC Legal Director states, “New Mexico Immigrant Law Center condemns the vote of some members of Congress to fund the an increase in the number of ICE officers who are ripping apart families in our community every day, and the increased detention of immigrants, many of whom are asylum-seekers who are simply exercising their basic human rights to flee persecution.

“The only beneficiary of expanded detention of immigrants is the private prison industry, which is profiting mightily off of the suffering of families.”

Andrea Plaza, Executive Director of Encuentro stated, “Yesterday’s disappointing vote, fueling Trump’s deportation machine, once again shows the imperative drive by Republicans to terrorize and separate immigrant families nationwide.

“We at Encuentro continue to denounce any legislation or action that does not foster and promote healthy communities where immigrants, refugees, and all people of color can thrive and live without fear of being separated from their loved ones. In NM we will continue to push for the creation of bridges that allow underrepresented communities to access education and employment opportunities that uplift and recognize the contributions immigrant, refugee families bring to our state.”

Listo NM is calling on all community members to organize in their hometowns and learn how to protect each other. The easiest way to plug in is by visiting our [Facebook page](#) where you can be guided to our different resources for **Know Your Rights Materials** and **Deportation Defense Resources**.

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Listo NM, is an Albuquerque-based collaborative of nonprofit organizations– including [El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos](#), [NM Dream Team \(NMDT\)](#), [Encuentro](#), and the [New Mexico Immigrant Law Center \(NMILC\)](#)– focused on supporting immigrant integration statewide and related support programs, services and advocacy, ensuring low-income immigrants have access to social and legal services for Immigration and Administrative Relief, to foster leadership development and to promote economic and civic engagement in immigrant communities.