

July 2, 2018

Re: Members of NYS Child Care Community condemn federal policy
of family separation and family detention at the U.S. border

Dear Honorable Members of the NYS Congressional Delegation:

The undersigned parents, child care providers and early childhood educators, faith leaders and child advocates across New York State, strongly condemn the federal government's deliberate and systematic policy of family separation, and now detention, at the U.S. border. As educators, advocates, parents and caregivers who devote each day to improving children's well-being and protecting them from harm, we are compelled to speak out. The research is clear that the effects of trauma on children can be devastating and lifelong. The practice of separating children from their parents is government-inflicted trauma and must stop. The alternate proposal to detain children and families together for extended periods also causes grave harm to children, and must be rejected.

We call upon New York's Congressional delegation to ensure that the following steps to minimize the trauma experienced by children seeking safe-haven in the United States are taken without delay. First, immediately reunite all children separated from their parents. Every day of delay causes further harm to children already deeply traumatized. Second, immigrant children and families should not be placed in jail, but released into the community as their immigration cases are being processed. There are many tested alternative ways to make sure parents show up in court, and releasing families is much better for children, just as safe for communities, and considerably cheaper for taxpayers.

Many of the immigrant families and children at our borders are fleeing unthinkable violence in their countries of origin. We urge and expect that these families are treated with dignity, respect and compassion as their immigration cases are processed.

Respectfully yours,

Abeja Montessori LLC
A Better Balance
Alliance for Quality Education
Care-a-lot Child Care
Center for Children's Initiatives
Child Care Council, Inc.
Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.
Child Care Resource Network
Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc.
Children's Aid
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens' Committee for Children
Day Care Council of New York
Early Care & Learning Council
Early Childhood Alliance-Onondaga
ECE on the Move
Empire Justice Center
Family Child Care Association of NYS

Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Hunger Action Network of NYS
New York Association for the Education of
Young Children
New York State Network for Youth Success
New York Zero-to-Three Network
Northern Rivers Family of Services
Orangetown Jewish Center
Prevent Child Abuse New York
QUALITYstarsNY
RocACTS Education Task Force
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Southern Adirondack Child Care Network
The Children's Agenda
The YMCA of Greater Rochester
Women's Housing and Economic
Development Corporation