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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
 AT SEATTLE**

STATE OF WASHINGTON;  
 COMMONWEALTH OF  
 MASSACHUSETTS; STATE OF  
 CALIFORNIA; STATE OF MARYLAND;  
 STATE OF OREGON; STATE OF NEW  
 MEXICO; COMMONWEALTH OF  
 PENNSYLVANIA; STATE OF NEW  
 JERSEY; STATE OF IOWA; STATE OF  
 ILLINOIS; STATE OF MINNESOTA;  
 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND;  
 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA;  
 STATE OF NEW YORK; STATE OF  
 VERMONT; STATE OF NORTH  
 CAROLINA; STATE OF DELAWARE;  
 and THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;  
 DONALD TRUMP, in his official capacity  
 as President of the United States of America;  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
 SECURITY; U.S. IMMIGRATION AND  
 CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT; U.S.  
 CUSTOMS AND BORDER  
 PROTECTION; U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND  
 IMMIGRATION SERVICES; U.S.  
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND

NO.

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY  
 AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

1 HUMAN SERVICES; OFFICE OF  
2 REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT; KIRSTJEN  
3 NIELSEN, in her official capacity as  
4 Secretary of the U.S. Department of  
5 Homeland Security; THOMAS HOMAN, in  
6 his official capacity as Acting Director of  
7 U.S. Immigration and Customs  
8 Enforcement; KEVIN K. MCALEENAN, in  
9 his official capacity as Commissioner of  
10 U.S. Customs and Border Protection; ALEX  
11 AZAR, in his official capacity as Secretary  
12 of U.S. Department of Health and Human  
13 Services; SCOTT LLOYD, in his official  
14 capacity as Director of Office of Refugee  
15 Resettlement; and JEFFERSON  
16 BEAUREGARD SESSIONS III, in his  
17 official capacity as the Attorney General of  
18 the United States,

19 Defendants.

## 20 I. INTRODUCTION

21 1. The States of Washington, California, Maryland, Oregon, New Mexico, New  
22 Jersey, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Rhode Island, New York, Vermont, North Carolina, and  
23 Delaware; the Commonwealths of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; and the District  
24 of Columbia (collectively, the States) bring this action to protect the States and their residents  
25 against the Trump Administration's practice of refusing entry to asylum applicants who present  
26 at Southwestern border ports of entry and its cruel and unlawful policy of forcibly separating  
families who enter the country along our Southwestern border.

21 2. Widespread news reports, as well as interviews of detainees in Seattle and  
22 elsewhere, confirm that families fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries who  
23 try to present themselves at Southwestern ports of entry to seek asylum are being refused entry  
24 into the United States. Border officials are unlawfully turning away these families on the pretext  
25 that the United States is "full" or no longer accepting asylum seekers. This unlawful practice  
26

1 exacerbates the trauma already suffered by refugee families while simultaneously artificially  
2 increasing illegal entry violations.

3         3. For those families that do enter the United States along the Southwestern border,  
4 immigration officials have implemented the Trump Administration's policy of forcibly  
5 separating parents from their children – regardless of the family's circumstances or the needs of  
6 the children. As of June 20, 2018, the new policy had already resulted in the separation of over  
7 two thousand children from their parents at the Southwestern border, most recently at a rate of  
8 50-70 families separated *every day*. Defendants have taken children as young as infants from  
9 their parents, often with no warning or opportunity to say goodbye, and providing no information  
10 about where the children are being taken or when they will next see each other. The States'  
11 interviews of detainees in their respective jurisdictions confirm the gratuitous harm that this  
12 policy inflicts on parents and children and the immediate and deleterious impact it has on  
13 families and communities.  
14

15  
16         4. As of June 25, 2018, emerging reports suggest that immigration officials are now  
17 using the children taken from their parents as leverage to coerce parents to withdraw their asylum  
18 claims.

19  
20         5. Defendants have repeatedly and publicly admitted that a policy of intentionally  
21 separating immigrant children from their parents would be "cruel, "horrible," and "antithetical  
22 to child welfare." But they have alternately claimed that they have no such policy, or that it is  
23 somehow mandated by federal law or prior court decisions.

24         6. In truth, however, Defendants have embraced a policy of separating parents from  
25 their children for the express purpose of deterring immigration along the Southwestern border  
26

1 (the “Policy”). No law or court decision requires such separation. Rather, Defendants have  
2 chosen to adopt the Policy as part of their “zero tolerance” or “100 percent prosecution” approach  
3 to individuals who enter the country unlawfully, irrespective of circumstances, and to then use  
4 such misdemeanor criminal charges to detain parents indefinitely in federal facilities that cannot  
5 accommodate families.  
6

7 7. Hundreds of children are left to languish in makeshift detention facilities – where  
8 staff are sometimes told not to comfort them – until a placement is found for the child.  
9 Defendants have moved the children and parents to different locations all over the country. While  
10 the parents are held in federal facilities to await further immigration proceedings, their children  
11 are sent elsewhere to group shelters or family placements.  
12

13 8. Defendants have made clear that the purpose of separating families is not to  
14 protect children, but rather to create a public spectacle designed to deter potential immigrants  
15 from coming to the United States. As Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said  
16 recently: “Nobody likes seeing babies ripped from their mothers’ arms . . . but we have to make  
17 sure that DHS’ laws are understood through the soundbite culture that we live in.” *KellyAnne*  
18 *Conway: ‘Nobody likes’ Policy Separating Migrant Kids at the Border* (June 17, 2018) available  
19 at [https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read/conway-nobody-likes-policy-separating-](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read/conway-nobody-likes-policy-separating-migrant-kids-border-n884016)  
20 [migrant-kids-border-n884016](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/first-read/conway-nobody-likes-policy-separating-migrant-kids-border-n884016), attached hereto as Ex. 1. Defendants’ Policy is causing severe,  
21 intentional, and permanent trauma to the children and parents who are separated in furtherance  
22 of an illegitimate deterrence objective.  
23

24 9. On June 20, 2018, President Trump signed an Executive Order purporting to  
25 suspend the Policy, but any relief offered by the Order is illusory. The Order says nothing about  
26

1 reuniting the families already ripped apart by the federal government, and Trump Administration  
2 officials have made clear the Order will have no impact on the thousands of families who have  
3 already been traumatized.

4  
5 10. Moreover, based on its text and contemporaneous statements by Administration  
6 officials, it is clear the Order does not require the end of family separation. In fact, the  
7 Administration currently lacks both the capacity and the legal authority to detain families  
8 together for indefinite periods of time, which is what the Order contemplates as the alternative  
9 to separating families.

10  
11 11. On June 21, 2018, as required by the Order, Attorney General Sessions filed an  
12 *Ex Parte* Application for relief from the *Flores* Settlement (a 1997 agreement which sets national  
13 standards regarding the detention, release, and treatment of all children in DHS custody). That  
14 request seeks rescission of *Flores*' protections so that families may be detained indefinitely  
15 during the pendency of any immigration proceedings involving their members, a plan that raises  
16 the specter of internment camps.

17  
18 12. Moreover, the *Flores* application seeks a "determin[ation] that the Agreement's  
19 state licensure requirement does not apply to ICE family residential facilities." The government's  
20 attempt to modify the *Flores* settlement terms by removing States' licensing authority and  
21 jurisdiction over such facilities is a direct attack on the States' sovereign powers.

22  
23 13. Neither the Order nor the Administration's *Flores* application offer any assurance  
24 that the Administration will not return to a family separation policy when its efforts to intern  
25 families together fail. In response to the public outcry against family separation, in recent days  
26 President Trump has proposed that Homeland Security simply deport immigrants without

1 hearing or legal process instead of, or perhaps in addition to, interning thousands of families in  
2 military facilities.

3         14. The Policy, and the Trump Administration's subsequent attempt to shield their  
4 facilities from state licensing standards, is an affront to States' sovereign interests in enforcing  
5 their laws governing minimum standards of care for children, declaring the family unit to be a  
6 fundamental resource of American life that should be nurtured, and requiring the preservation of  
7 the parent-child relationship unless the child's right to basic nurture, health, or safety is  
8 jeopardized. The Policy also adversely affects the States' proprietary interests, forcing States to  
9 expend resources to remediate the harms inflicted by the Policy, some of which are likely to be  
10 permanent. State programs, including child welfare services, social and health services, courts,  
11 and public schools are all experiencing fiscal impacts due to family separation that will only  
12 increase. The Policy, and the Administration's related conduct, has caused severe and immediate  
13 harm to the States and their residents, including parents who are detained, released, or otherwise  
14 reside in the States after being forcibly separated from their children; children who are placed in  
15 facilities, shelters, sponsor homes, foster care, or who otherwise reside in the States after being  
16 separated from their parents; extended families and sponsors in the States; and the States'  
17 immigrant communities.

18         15. The Court should declare the practice of refusing to accept asylum seekers who  
19 present at Southwestern points of entry and the related Policy of family separation illegal and  
20 order Defendants to stop implementing them immediately. The Court should order Defendants  
21 to reunite every family separated by these unlawful acts immediately, and to take such other  
22 actions as are warranted by the time of hearing. Defendants' conduct has caused real harms to  
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1 the States and our residents, harms that will only increase unless Defendants are enjoined from  
2 continuing.

## 3 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 16. The Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 2201(a). The United  
5 States' sovereign immunity is waived by 5 U.S.C. § 702.

6 17. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(2) and  
7 1391(e)(1). Defendants are the United States of America and United States agencies or officers  
8 sued in their official capacities. The State of Washington is a resident of this judicial district, and  
9 a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this Complaint occurred within the  
10 Western District of Washington. For example, as of June 18, 2018, parents who were recently  
11 refused entry and then victimized by the Policy were being detained at the Federal Detention  
12 Center – SeaTac, which is located in King County. At that time, a number of children who were  
13 separated from their parents pursuant to the Policy also were being detained in Seattle and other  
14 nearby locations.

15 18. The States bring this action to redress harms to their sovereign, proprietary, and  
16 *parens patriae* interests.

## 17 **III. PARTIES**

### 18 **A. Plaintiffs**

19 19. The Plaintiff States of Washington, California, Maryland, Oregon, New Mexico,  
20 New Jersey, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Rhode Island, New York, Vermont, North Carolina,  
21 Delaware, and the Commonwealths of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, represented  
22 by and through their Attorneys General, are sovereign states of the United States of America.  
23  
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1 The District of Columbia, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a municipal  
2 corporation organized under the Constitution of the United States and the local government for  
3 the territory constituting the permanent seat of the federal government.

4 20. The States are aggrieved and have standing to bring this action because of the  
5 injuries to the States caused by the Policy, including immediate and irreparable injuries to their  
6 sovereign, proprietary, and quasi-sovereign interests.

7 21. Nothing in the June 20 Executive Order remedies these harms, and the June 21  
8 application to modify *Flores* is a direct attack on the sovereign powers of the States.

9  
10 **B. Defendant Federal Agencies and Officers**

11 22. Defendant the United States of America includes government agencies and  
12 departments responsible for the implementation of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)  
13 and the admission, detention, and removal of non-citizens who are traveling or returning to the  
14 United States via air, land, and sea ports across the United States.

15 23. Defendant Donald Trump is the President of the United States, and he is sued in  
16 his official capacity.

17 24. Defendant Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is a federal cabinet agency  
18 responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA. DHS is a Department of the Executive  
19 Branch of the U.S. Government, and is an agency within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f).

20 25. Defendant Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the component  
21 agency of DHS that is responsible for carrying out removal orders; operating adult immigration  
22 detention facilities; and contracting for the detention of immigrants in removal proceedings,  
23 including with public and private operators of detention centers, jails, and prisons.



1           26.     The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is an Operational and Support  
2 Component agency within DHS. CBP is responsible for detaining and/or removing non-citizens  
3 arriving at air, land, and sea ports across the United States.

4           27.     Defendant U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is a component  
5 agency of DHS that, through its Asylum Officers, conducts interviews of certain individuals  
6 apprehended at the border to determine whether they have a credible fear of persecution and  
7 should be permitted to apply for asylum.

8           28.     Defendant U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is a  
9 department of the executive branch of the U.S. government.

10          29.     Defendant Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is a component of HHS which  
11 provides care for and placement for unaccompanied noncitizen children.

12          30.     Defendant Kirstjen Nielsen is the Secretary of DHS. She is sued in her official  
13 capacity.

14          31.     Defendant Thomas Homan is the acting Director of ICE and is sued in his official  
15 capacity.

16          32.     Defendant Kevin K. McAleenan is the Commissioner of CBP and is sued in his  
17 official capacity.

18          33.     Defendant Alex Azar is the Secretary of HHS and is sued in his official capacity.

19          34.     Defendant Scott Lloyd is Director of ORR and is sued in his official capacity.

20          35.     Defendant Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III is sued in his official capacity as the  
21 Attorney General of the United States. In this capacity, he has responsibility for the  
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1 administration of the immigration laws pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1103 and oversees the Executive  
2 Office of Immigration Review.

#### 3 IV. ALLEGATIONS

##### 4 A. Federal Immigration Policy Has Traditionally Emphasized Family Reunification, 5 Recognizing that Children Belong with their Families

6 36. When DHS, typically through ICE or CBP, detains an undocumented child who  
7 is traveling alone, *i.e.*, unaccompanied by a parent, the relevant federal agencies follow an  
8 established process. Specifically, ICE or CBP may detain an unaccompanied alien child (UAC)  
9 for up to 72 hours, as other federal agencies locate an appropriate shelter facility for that child.  
10 8 U.S.C. § 1232(b)(3). ICE or CBP then must turn the child over to the ORR for shelter  
11 placement. *Id.*

13 37. Once in ORR custody, children are placed in ORR-funded and supervised  
14 shelters, where staff must attempt to locate a parent and determine if family reunification is  
15 possible. If ORR is unable to find a parent, ORR staff will try to locate another family member,  
16 relative, family friend, or caretaker in the United States to serve as a sponsor who can care for  
17 the child during the pendency of any subsequent immigration proceeding.

18 38. Unaccompanied children in ORR custody for whom no sponsor placement can  
19 be made are moved to secondary ORR-contracted and state-licensed group care facilities, which  
20 can be anywhere in the country. In such cases, if ORR assesses that the child has a pathway to  
21 legal immigration status, ORR will place the child in an ORR-contracted and state-licensed long  
22 term foster care program while the immigration process continues. If ORR determines that a  
23 pathway does not exist, the child may remain in a shelter or ORR-contracted and state-licensed  
24 group care during removal proceedings.  
25  
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1           39.     Thus, unaccompanied children typically arrive in the individual states in three  
2 ways: they may be placed initially in a state-licensed shelter located in the state while ORR  
3 determines if a family member can be found in the country; they may arrive when ORR releases  
4 them to the care of an in-state sponsor while their immigration proceeding goes forward; or they  
5 can be moved into a placement in an ORR-contracted and state-licensed long term foster care  
6 program as they await their immigration proceeding.

7  
8           40.     While ORR's initial shelter care placement and long term foster care programs  
9 are largely federally funded, an unaccompanied child's in-state placements impose burdens on  
10 the receiving state, discussed below.

11  
12       **B.     After Almost a Year of Threats, Defendants Adopted an Official Policy of**  
13       **Separating Families Who Cross the Southwestern Border, Creating a New Class of**  
14       **"Unaccompanied" Children**

15           41.     For over a year, the Trump Administration has made clear in numerous public  
16 statements that it was considering an official Policy to separate families at the Southwestern  
17 border in an effort to deter immigrants from Latin America from coming to the United States.

18           42.     As early as March 2017, a senior DHS official stated that Defendants were  
19 considering a proposal to separate children from their parents at the Southwestern border. *See*  
20 Mary Kay Mallonee, *DHS Considering Proposal to Separate Children From Adults at Border*  
21 (March 4, 2017) available at [https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/03/politics/dhs-children-adults-](https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/03/politics/dhs-children-adults-border/)  
22 [border/](https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/03/politics/dhs-children-adults-border/), attached hereto as Ex. 2.

23           43.     On March 7, 2017, John Kelly, the then-Secretary of DHS, confirmed that DHS  
24 was considering a policy of separating children from their parents: "I am considering that. They  
25 will be well cared for as we deal with their parents." *See* Daniella Diaz, *Kelly: DHS Considering*  
26

1 *Separating Undocumented Children From Their Parents at the Border* (March 7, 2017)  
2 available at [https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/06/politics/john-kelly-separating-children-from-](https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/06/politics/john-kelly-separating-children-from-parents-immigration-border/index.html)  
3 [parents-immigration-border/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/06/politics/john-kelly-separating-children-from-parents-immigration-border/index.html), attached hereto as Ex. 3.

4 44. Then-Secretary Kelly publicly backed away from those statements after harsh  
5 criticism from the press, human-rights advocates, and members of Congress. See Tal Kopan,  
6 *Kelly Says DHS Won't Separate Families at the Border* (March 29, 2017) available at  
7 <https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/29/politics/border-families-separation-kelly/index.html> and  
8 attached hereto as Ex. 4. An inside source, however, reported that the family separation proposal  
9 was still on the table for discussion at DHS as of August 2017. See Jonathan Blitzer, *How the*  
10 *Trump Administration Got Comfortable Separating Immigrant Kids From Their Parents*, The  
11 New Yorker (May 30, 2018) available at [https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-](https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-the-trump-administration-got-comfortable-separating-immigrant-kids-from-their-parents)  
12 [the-trump-administration-got-comfortable-separating-immigrant-kids-from-their-parents,](https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-the-trump-administration-got-comfortable-separating-immigrant-kids-from-their-parents)  
13 attached hereto as Ex. 5.

14 45. In fact, DHS secretly piloted the Policy in the El Paso sector of the border in  
15 western Texas from July to November 2017. See Dara Lind, *Trump's DHS is Using an*  
16 *Extremely Dubious Statistic to Justify Splitting up Families at the Border*, Vox (May 8, 2018)  
17 available at [https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/5/8/17327512/sessions-illegal-](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/5/8/17327512/sessions-illegal-immigration-border-asylum-families)  
18 [immigration-border-asylum-families](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/5/8/17327512/sessions-illegal-immigration-border-asylum-families), attached hereto as Ex. 6.

19 46. It was later reported that between October 2017 and April 2018, 700 families  
20 were separated at the Southwestern border, including at least 100 children under the age of four.  
21 See Ex. 3.

1           47.     On February 12, 2018, 33 U.S. Senators also a letter to DHS Secretary Nielsen,  
2 concerned that DHS was carrying out “a systematic and blanket policy to separate a child from  
3 a parent” upon arrival to the United States—a policy the Senators condemned as “cruel” and  
4 “grotesquely inhumane.” The letter is attached hereto as Ex. 7. The letter notes that Secretary  
5 Nielsen “failed to repudiate” such a policy during a recent Senate Judiciary Committee hearing,  
6 and points to “numerous [documented] cases in which parents have been separated from their  
7 children.” *Id.*

9           48.     In the spring of 2018, an influx of families seeking to enter the United States may  
10 have catalyzed the Administration to finally embrace the Policy. In March and April of 2018,  
11 the number of families from Latin America apprehended at the Southwestern border increased  
12 dramatically, going from 5,475 in February to 8,873 in March (a 62% increase) and 9,653 in  
13 April (a 76% increase from February). *See* Southwest Border Migration FY2018, U.S. Dept. of  
14 Homeland Security *available at* <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration>,  
15 attached hereto as Ex. 8 *and* Southwest Border Migration FY2017, U.S. Dept. of Homeland  
16 Security *available at* <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration-fy2017#>,  
17 attached hereto as Ex. 9<sup>1</sup>.

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22           <sup>1</sup> CBP tracks “apprehensions” and “inadmissibles” separately and adds these together to count  
23 “total enforcement actions.” *See* CBP Enforcement Statistics FY2018, U.S. Customs and Border  
24 Protection *available at* <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>, attached hereto  
25 as Ex. 10. “Inadmissibles refers to individuals encountered at ports of entry who are seeking lawful  
26 admission into the United States but are determined to be inadmissible, individuals presenting themselves  
to seek humanitarian protection under our laws, and individuals who withdraw an application for  
admission and return to their countries of origin within a short timeframe.” *Id.* “Apprehensions refers to  
the physical control or temporary detainment of a person who is not lawfully in the U.S. which may or  
may not result in an arrest.” *Id.*

1           49.     The number of family units deemed to be inadmissible went from 3,941 in  
2 February to 5,162 in March (a 31% increase) and 5,445 in April (a 38% increase from February).  
3 *See* Ex. 8. These numbers include all persons who enter at ports of entry but are deemed to be  
4 inadmissible; asylum seekers; and individuals who apply for admission but subsequently return  
5 to their countries of origin within a short time frame. *See* Ex. 9. The numbers reflected an  
6 increase of 672% in March 2018 in comparison to March 2017, and 697% in April 2018 in  
7 comparison to April 2017. *Compare* Exs. 8 and 9.

9           50.     According to at least one source, the President’s frustration with the rising  
10 numbers of Latino immigrants at the Southwestern border in March and April of 2018 was the  
11 impetus for publicly adopting the Policy. *See* Ex. 5. When asked what had changed since the  
12 prior year – when the Administration backed away from adopting such a policy – the person  
13 pointed to the President: “What you’re seeing now is a President’s frustration with the fact that  
14 the numbers are back up.” *Id.*

16           51.     In early April 2018, President Trump reportedly expressed frustration with DHS  
17 Secretary Nielsen for failing to stop or decrease immigration at the Southwestern border. Several  
18 officials stated that one persistent issue was President Trump’s belief that Secretary Nielsen and  
19 DHS were resisting his direction that parents be separated from their children when crossing  
20 unlawfully at the US-Mexico border. *See* Shear and Pearlroth, *Kirstjen Nielsen, Chief of*  
21 *Homeland Security, Almost Resigned After Trump Tirade* (May 10, 2018) available at  
22 [https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/10/us/politics/trump-homeland-security-secretary-](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/10/us/politics/trump-homeland-security-secretary-resign.html)  
23 [resign.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/10/us/politics/trump-homeland-security-secretary-resign.html), attached hereto as Ex. 11. The President and his aides had been pushing a family  
24  
25  
26

1 separation policy for weeks as a way to deter families from crossing the Southwestern border  
2 illegally. *Id.*

3 52. On April 6, 2018, President Trump issued a memorandum directing Attorney  
4 General Sessions and DHS Secretary Nielsen to detail all measures and identify any resources  
5 or steps “needed to expeditiously end ‘catch and release’ practices” that allow undocumented  
6 immigrants to be released into the community pending resolution of their immigration cases.  
7

8 53. That same day, Attorney General Sessions formally announced a  
9 “zero-tolerance” policy “for offenses under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a), which prohibits both attempted  
10 illegal entry and illegal entry into the United States by an alien.” *See* Attorney General  
11 Announces Zero-Tolerance Policy for Criminal Illegal Entry, U.S. Department of Justice (April  
12 6, 2018) available at [https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-announces-zero-](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-announces-zero-tolerance-policy-criminal-illegal-entry)  
13 [tolerance-policy-criminal-illegal-entry](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-announces-zero-tolerance-policy-criminal-illegal-entry), attached hereto as Ex. 12.  
14

15 54. In a memorandum also issued April 6, Attorney General Sessions “direct[ed] each  
16 United States Attorney’s Office along the Southwest Border . . . to adopt immediately a  
17 zero-tolerance policy for all offenses referred for prosecution under section 1325(a)” and made  
18 clear that this directive “superseded any existing policy.” *See* Memorandum for Federal  
19 Prosecutors Along the Southwest Border (April 6, 2018), attached hereto as Ex. 13.  
20

21 55. On May 7, 2018, DHS adopted an official Policy of “referring 100 percent of  
22 illegal Southwest Border crossings to the Department of Justice for prosecution,” and Attorney  
23 General Sessions publicized that children would be automatically separated from parents or other  
24 adults with whom they were traveling. *See Attorney General Sessions Delivers Remarks*  
25 *Discussing the Immigration Enforcement Actions of the Trump Administration*, Justice News  
26

1 (May 7, 2018) available at [https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-sessions-](https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-sessions-delivers-remarks-discussing-immigration-enforcement-actions)  
2 [delivers-remarks-discussing-immigration-enforcement-actions](https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-sessions-delivers-remarks-discussing-immigration-enforcement-actions), attached hereto as Ex. 14.

3 56. With that, Attorney General Sessions and Secretary Nielsen carried out President  
4 Trump's directive: Under the new federal law enforcement priority, all undocumented adults  
5 crossing the U.S.-Mexico border at unauthorized locations would be referred by DHS to the  
6 Department of Justice. DOJ would then charge each adult with misdemeanor illegal entry or  
7 reentry. Everyone so referred would be prosecuted and detained regardless of familial  
8 circumstances or asylum claims, and children would be automatically separated from their  
9 parents and transferred to the custody of ORR for placement elsewhere.  
10

11 57. Accordingly, Defendants have thus created a new category of "unaccompanied"  
12 children – those who came into the country with a parent but were, pursuant to the Policy,  
13 forcibly separated by ICE or CBP immediately thereafter.  
14

15 58. Perhaps emboldened by the directive, DHS officers at ports of entry along the  
16 Southwestern border have been refusing to let immigrants present themselves and request  
17 asylum, turning people away because the United States is "full." *See* Alfredo Corchado, *Asylum*  
18 *Seekers Reportedly Denied Entry at Border as Trump Tightens 'Zero Tolerance' Immigration*  
19 *Policies* (June 6, 2018) available at  
20 [https://www.dallasnews.com/news/immigration/2018/06/06/reports-turning-back-asylum-](https://www.dallasnews.com/news/immigration/2018/06/06/reports-turning-back-asylum-seekers-border-crossings-trump-tightens-grip-zero-tolerance-immigration-policies)  
21 [seekers-border-crossings-trump-tightens-grip-zero-tolerance-immigration-policies](https://www.dallasnews.com/news/immigration/2018/06/06/reports-turning-back-asylum-seekers-border-crossings-trump-tightens-grip-zero-tolerance-immigration-policies), attached  
22 hereto as Ex. 15.  
23

24 59. One report describes immigrants who were turned away on the bridge in El Paso  
25 by CBP officers before they reached the border checkpoint, so they were unable to make their  
26



1 asylum request at the port of entry. *Id.* Ruben Garcia, founder of a nonprofit that assists  
2 immigrants in El Paso explains: “If you look indigenous and you look Central American, they  
3 will stop you . . . They never ask why they are coming. They just say we can’t receive you.”  
4 *Id.* When asked why they are refusing to allow immigrants to reach checkpoints to request  
5 asylum, CBP officials state that centers are “full.” *Id.*  
6

7 60. Recent interviews with detained parents held in federal facilities in Seattle  
8 confirm these reports. For example, one mother presented herself and her 15-year old son at the  
9 Laredo, Texas port of entry and requested asylum for herself and safe passage for her American-  
10 citizen son. Officials at the port of entry detained her, separated her from her son, and told her  
11 that the United States “will not give [her] asylum” and that she “w[ould] not see [her] son again  
12 until he turns 18” because he would be taken to a shelter or given to an American family for  
13 adoption. Another mother claiming asylum was told, in front of her 14-year-old daughter, that  
14 she would be “punished with jail time” for having come to the United States.  
15

16 61. The effect of this conduct is an increasing influx of entrants at locations other  
17 than ports of entry, which Defendants construe as violations of 8 U.S.C. § 1325 and its  
18 implementing regulations. The adults are then routed into the criminal system while the children  
19 are turned over to ORR for placement – thereby separating the family and implementing the  
20 Policy.  
21

22 62. Since announcing the Policy, Defendants have repeatedly acknowledged its  
23 existence and cruelty. For example, President Trump, tweeting on May 26, 2018, referred to the  
24 Policy as a “horrible law.” The May 26, 2018 tweet is attached hereto as Ex. 16.  
25  
26

1           63.     On May 29, 2018, Devin O'Malley, a Justice Department spokesman, recapped  
2 the Policy, telling reporters that suspected crossers "will not be given a free pass," and will face  
3 criminal prosecution and federal detention "irrespective of whether or not they have brought a  
4 child with them." See Ted Hesson, *White House's Miller blames Democrats for border crisis*,  
5 Politico (May 29, 2018) available at [https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/29/stephen-miller-](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/29/stephen-miller-democrats-border-574537)  
6 [democrats-border-574537](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/29/stephen-miller-democrats-border-574537), attached hereto as Ex. 17.

8           64.     On June 16, 2018, it was reported that Senior Advisor to the President Stephen  
9 Miller was a driving force in adoption and implementation of the Policy. See Chas Danner,  
10 *Separating Families at the Border Was Always Part of the Plan* (June 17, 2018) available at  
11 [http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/06/separating-families-at-border-was-always-part-](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/06/separating-families-at-border-was-always-part-of-the-plan.html)  
12 [of-the-plan.html](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/06/separating-families-at-border-was-always-part-of-the-plan.html), attached hereto as Ex. 18. While others acknowledge the controversial nature  
13 of the Policy, Mr. Miller unapologetically embraced it, calling it "a simple decision by the  
14 administration . . . . The message is that no one is exempt from immigration law." *Id.*

16           65.     On June 17, 2018, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway acknowledged  
17 the existence of the Policy in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," stating, "As a mother,  
18 as a Catholic, as somebody who has a conscience . . . I will tell you that nobody likes this policy."  
19 See Ex. 1. She continued, "Nobody likes seeing babies ripped from their mothers' arms, from  
20 their mothers' wombs, frankly, but we have to make sure that DHS' laws are understood through  
21 the soundbite culture that we live in." *Id.*

23           66.     On June 18, 2018, President Trump characterized the Policy as one of the United  
24 States' "horrible and tough" immigration laws. See Hains, Tim, *President Trump: "The United*  
25 *States Will Not be a Migrant Camp"*, "Not On My Watch" (June 18, 2018) available at  
26

1 <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2018/06/18/president-trump-the-united-states-will-not-be-a-migrant-camp.html>, attached hereto as Ex. 19.

3 67. Also on June 18, 2018, in remarks before the National Sheriffs' Association  
4 (NSA), Attorney General Sessions promoted the deterrent effect of family separation: "We  
5 cannot and will not encourage people to bring their children or other children to the country  
6 unlawfully by giving them immunity in the process." See Luis Sanchez, *Sessions on separating*  
7 *families: If we build a wall and pass legislation, we won't have these 'terrible choices'*, The Hill  
8 (June 18, 2018) available at [http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/392785-sessions-on-](http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/392785-sessions-on-separating-families-if-we-build-a-wall-and-pass)  
9 [separating-families-if-we-build-a-wall-and-pass](http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/392785-sessions-on-separating-families-if-we-build-a-wall-and-pass), attached hereto as Ex. 20.

11 68. And in her remarks to the NSA, DHS Secretary Nielsen also confirmed the  
12 existence of the Policy, stating: "Illegal actions have and must have consequences. No more  
13 free passes, no more get out of jail free cards." See Tal Kopan, *'We will not apologize': Trump*  
14 *DHS chief defends immigration policy* (June 18, 2018) available at  
15 <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/18/politics/kirstjen-nielsen-immigration-policy/index.html>,  
16 attached hereto as Ex. 21.

18 69. The Policy has resulted in thousands of brutal familial separations.

19 70. For example, during a briefing call on June 15, 2018, DHS officials admitted that  
20 1,995 children were separated from 1,940 adults at the U.S.-Mexico border from April 19  
21 through May 31, 2018. The adults were all referred for prosecution. See *How Trump Family*  
22 *Separation Policy Became What it is Today* (June 14, 2018) available at  
23 [https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-trumps-family-separation-policy-has-become-what-](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-trumps-family-separation-policy-has-become-what-it-is-today)  
24 [it-is-today](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-trumps-family-separation-policy-has-become-what-it-is-today), attached hereto as Ex. 22.

1           71.     According to DHS data released on June 18, 2018 by Senator Dianne Feinstein,  
2 federal immigration officials separated 2,342 children from adults at the border between May 5  
3 and June 9, 2018. *See* Louis Nelson, *Defiant Trump refuses to back off migrant family*  
4 *separations*, Politico (June 18, 2018) available at  
5 <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/06/18/trump-immigration-child-separations-650875>,  
6  
7 attached hereto as Ex. 23.

8     **C.     The President’s Executive Order Does Not End Family Separation**

9           72.     On June 20, 2018, President Trump issued an Executive Order entitled,  
10 “Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation” (the Order). The Order is  
11 attached hereto as Ex. 24. While purporting to suspend the practice of separating families, the  
12 Order offers illusory relief. Indeed, the language of the Order itself does not actually require an  
13 end to family separation, and in fact, it implicitly recognizes that the Policy will continue.

14           73.     By its own terms, the Order states that it does not confer any enforceable right or  
15 benefit on any person.

16           74.     The Order appears to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to detain families  
17 together “during the pendency of any criminal proceedings for improper entry or immigration  
18 proceedings involving their members,” while continuing the practice of prosecuting and  
19 detaining all unauthorized border crossers.

20           75.     At the same time, the Order acknowledges that Defendants do not have the  
21 resources or facilities necessary to effectuate its terms. Indeed, every provision of the Order is  
22 to be carried out only “where appropriate and consistent with law and available resources.”  
23 These terms are undefined, leaving familial detention largely discretionary. Likewise, the Order  
24  
25  
26

1 repeatedly affirms that family unity is “subject to the availability of appropriations,” but provides  
2 no parameters on when appropriations will be sought or even how much funding is needed.

3 76. Similarly, the Order directs the Secretary of Defense to provide existing available  
4 facilities to house immigrant families, or to construct them, but again there is no indication that  
5 appropriate federal facilities exist and are available, or that construction of new family  
6 internment facilities is feasible.  
7

8 77. The Order also acknowledges that Defendants cannot lawfully carry out its terms  
9 until they receive a court order “that would permit” the family detention scheme contemplated.  
10 Because almost every provision in the Order is subject to the availability of non-existent  
11 resources and legal authority for indefinite detention that is contrary to settled law, it fails to  
12 provide any actual relief.  
13

14 78. The Order also is silent as to the thousands of families already separated by the  
15 Policy. It does nothing to require their reunification or redress the harms inflicted on those  
16 families. As a spokesperson for HHS’ Administration for Children and Families explained,  
17 “There will not be a grandfathering of existing cases ... I can tell you definitively that is going  
18 to be policy.” See Michael D. Shear, Abby Goodnough and Maggie Haberman, *Trump Retreats*  
19 *on Separating Families, but Thousands May Remain Apart*, (June 20, 2018) available at  
20 [https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/trump-immigration-children-executive-](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/trump-immigration-children-executive-order.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=a-lede-package-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news)  
21 [order.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=a-](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/trump-immigration-children-executive-order.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=a-lede-package-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news)  
22 [lede-package-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/trump-immigration-children-executive-order.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=a-lede-package-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news), attached as Ex. 25.  
23

24 79. Defendants have confirmed that the Order will not end family separation,  
25 ostensibly because only Congress can reverse the Policy. Notably, the Order poses a striking  
26

1 contrast with the Administration’s previous statements that Congressional legislation is the sole  
2 means of ending family separation, including President Trump’s explicit statement that “You  
3 can’t do it through executive order.” See “*Trump said only legislation could stop family*  
4 *separation. He just issued an executive order,*” the Washington Post (June 20, 2018) clip  
5 available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/trump-said-only-legislation-could-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/trump-said-only-legislation-could-stop-family-separation-hes-about-to-issue-an-executive-order/2018/06/20/c4f93aea-74a9-11e8-bda1-18e53a448a14_video.html?utm_term=.d6843e5acc54)  
6 [stop-family-separation-hes-about-to-issue-an-executive-order/2018/06/20/c4f93aea-74a9-11e8-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/trump-said-only-legislation-could-stop-family-separation-hes-about-to-issue-an-executive-order/2018/06/20/c4f93aea-74a9-11e8-bda1-18e53a448a14_video.html?utm_term=.d6843e5acc54)  
7 [bda1-18e53a448a14\\_video.html?utm\\_term=.d6843e5acc54](https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/politics/trump-said-only-legislation-could-stop-family-separation-hes-about-to-issue-an-executive-order/2018/06/20/c4f93aea-74a9-11e8-bda1-18e53a448a14_video.html?utm_term=.d6843e5acc54), and Adam Edelman, *Trump signs*  
8 *order stopping his policy of separating families at border* (June 20, 2018) available at  
9 [https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/trump-says-he-ll-sign-order-stopping-](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/trump-says-he-ll-sign-order-stopping-separation-families-border-n885061)  
10 [separation-families-border-n885061](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/trump-says-he-ll-sign-order-stopping-separation-families-border-n885061), attached hereto as Ex. 26.

11  
12  
13 80. Likewise, just days prior to issuance of the Order, Defendants stated numerous  
14 times their position that only Congress could end a policy of separating families. For example,  
15 on June 18, 2018, Secretary Nielsen announced: “Until these loopholes are closed by Congress,  
16 it is not possible, as a matter of law, to detain and remove whole family units who arrive illegally  
17 in the United States. Congress and the courts created this problem, and Congress alone can fix  
18 it. Until then, we will enforce every law we have on the books to defend the sovereignty and  
19 security of the United States.” See Matthew Nussbaum, *Trump falsely claimed for days that he*  
20 *couldn’t end family separations* (June 20, 2018) available at  
21 <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/06/20/trump-false-claims-family-separations-656011>,  
22 attached hereto as Ex. 27.

23  
24 81. Also on June 18, 2018, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
25 stated: “There’s only one body here that gets to create legislation and it’s Congress. Our job is  
26

1 to enforce it, and we would like to see Congress fix it. That’s why the President has repeatedly  
2 called on them to work with him to do just that.” *Id.*

3 82. And on June 20, 2018, contemporaneous with announcing the Order, Vice  
4 President Pence claimed that changing the law was the only way to end family separation: “I  
5 think the American people want the Democrats to stop the obstruction, to stop standing in the  
6 way of the kind of reforms at our border that will end the crisis of illegal immigration. We can  
7 solve this issue of separation.” *See Vice President Mike Pence: Democrats Can Fix Family*  
8 *Separation at Border* (June 20, 2018) available at [https://kdkaradio.radio.com/articles/vice-](https://kdkaradio.radio.com/articles/vice-president-mike-pence-democrats-can-fix-family-separation-border)  
9 [president-mike-pence-democrats-can-fix-family-separation-border](https://kdkaradio.radio.com/articles/vice-president-mike-pence-democrats-can-fix-family-separation-border), attached hereto as Ex. 28.  
10

11 83. When President Trump signed the Order, Vice President Pence and Secretary  
12 Nielsen again called on Congress to end separating families at the border; Vice President Pence  
13 suggested that the Order is only applicable “in the immediate days forward” and “call[ed] on  
14 Congress to change the laws” for a more permanent fix. *See* clip at [https://www.c-](https://www.c-span.org/video/?447373-1/president-trump-signs-executive-order-halting-family-separation-policy)  
15 [span.org/video/?447373-1/president-trump-signs-executive-order-halting-family-separation-](https://www.c-span.org/video/?447373-1/president-trump-signs-executive-order-halting-family-separation-policy)  
16 [policy](https://www.c-span.org/video/?447373-1/president-trump-signs-executive-order-halting-family-separation-policy).  
17

18 84. Later that day, at a briefing organized by the White House, Gene Hamilton, a  
19 counselor to Attorney General Sessions, sidestepped a question about whether a family that  
20 crosses the border now would be separated, stating that an “implementation phase” would occur,  
21 but that he was not sure precisely what DHS or HHS would do in the immediate future. Mr.  
22 Hamilton echoed President Trump’s, Nielsen’s, and Sessions’ statements that “Congress needs  
23 to provide a permanent fix for this situation.” Mr. Hamilton stated that if Congress does not act,  
24 it would be up to the *Flores* judge to decide whether the Administration could keep families  
25  
26

1 together. See Charlie Savage, *Explaining Trump’s Executive Order on Family Separation*, (June  
2 20, 2018) available at [https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/family-separation-](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/family-separation-executive-order.html)  
3 [executive-order.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/family-separation-executive-order.html), attached hereto as Ex. 29.

4  
5 **D. Pursuant to the Order, the Attorney General Has Launched an Attack on State Sovereignty**

6 85. The Order directs the Attorney General to “promptly file a request with the U.S.  
7 District Court for the Central District of California to modify the Settlement Agreement in *Flores*  
8 *v. Sessions*,” making rescission of *Flores*’ protections a predicate to the maintenance of family  
9 unity.

10  
11 86. The *Flores* Agreement, which has been in place since 1997, “sets out nationwide  
12 policy for the detention, release, and treatment of minors in the custody of the INS,” including  
13 both accompanied and unaccompanied minors. Stipulated Settlement Agreement, ¶ 9, attached  
14 hereto as Ex. 30. Among other things, *Flores* prevents the DHS from detaining children in  
15 restricted facilities for long periods and it requires federal detention centers to meet state  
16 licensing requirements for childcare facilities.

17  
18 87. As Vice President Pence previously conceded, the *Flores* agreement provides  
19 only two options for the long term placement of families—(1) parental detention and family  
20 separation, or (2) keeping families together, by releasing them into the community. See clip  
21 available at <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4736625/pence-options-law>).

22  
23 88. On June 21, 2018, Attorney General Sessions filed an *ex parte* application  
24 seeking relief from the *Flores* Settlement Agreement to allow the federal government to detain  
25 families indefinitely at non-licensed facilities. *Flores, et al. v. Sessions, et al.*, Case No. CV 85-  
26 4544-DMG (C.D. Cal.), Dkt. 435-1 at 1, 13, attached hereto as Ex. 31.



1           89. In his application, Attorney General Sessions admits that mass internment of  
2 families by the federal government is currently illegal: “this Court’s construction of the Flores  
3 Settlement Agreement eliminates the practical availability of family detention across the nation  
4 . . .” Ex. 31 at 2. “Under current law and legal rulings, including this Court’s, it is not possible  
5 for the U.S. government to detain families together during the pendency of their immigration  
6 proceedings. It cannot be done.” *Id.* at 3.

8           90. Nevertheless, Attorney General Sessions argues that indefinitely detaining  
9 families is necessary for deterrence. Specifically, he asserts that, without family detention, there  
10 is “a powerful incentive for aliens to enter this country with children.” *Id.* at 1. Attorney General  
11 Session claims that, “[u]ndeniably the limitation on the option of detaining families together and  
12 marked increase of families illegally crossing the border are linked.” *Id.* at 2. “[D]etaining  
13 these individuals dispels such expectations, and deters others from unlawfully coming to the  
14 United States.” *Id.* at 13 (internal citations omitted).

16           91. Attorney General Sessions also requests an exemption from state licensing  
17 requirements, “because of ongoing and unresolved disputes over the ability of States to license  
18 these types of facilities.” Ex. 31 at 17-18.

19           92. The district court and the Ninth Circuit in *Flores* rejected almost identical  
20 arguments advanced by the federal government in 2015. *See Flores v. Lynch*, 212 F. Supp. 3d  
21 907, 913 (C.D. Cal. 2015), *aff’d in part, rev’d in part and remanded*, 828 F.3d 898 (9th Cir.  
22 2016); *Flores v. Lynch*, 828 F.3d 898, 910 (9th Cir. 2016). At that time, the government  
23 requested that the trial court modify the *Flores* agreement to allow DHS to hold female-headed  
24 families with their children indefinitely in family detention centers in Texas and New Mexico.  
25  
26

1 Rather than grant that request, the district court confirmed that *Flores* requires that “Defendants  
2 must house children who are not released in a non-secure facility that is licensed by an  
3 appropriate state agency to care for dependent children.” Case No. CV 85-4544-DMG (C.D.  
4 Cal.), Dkt. 177 at 12. The court stated: “The fact that the [Texas and New Mexico] family  
5 residential centers cannot be licensed by an appropriate state agency simply means that, under  
6 the Agreement, [children] ... cannot be housed in these facilities except as permitted by the  
7 Agreement.” *Id.* at 12-13.

9 93. The district court also found that the alleged “influx” of immigrants crossing the  
10 U.S.-Mexico border did not constitute changed circumstances warranting the requested  
11 modification and rejected the government’s stated rationale that the “family detention policy  
12 [would] deter[] others who would have come.” Case No. CV 85-4544-DMG (C.D. Cal.), Dkt.  
13 177 at 23. The Ninth Circuit affirmed, stating: “The Settlement expressly anticipated an influx  
14 . . . and, even if the parties did not anticipate an influx of this size, we cannot fathom how a  
15 ‘suitably tailored’ response to the change in circumstances would be to exempt an entire category  
16 of migrants from the Settlement, as opposed to, say, relaxing certain requirements applicable to  
17 all migrants.” *Flores v. Lynch*, 828 F.3d 898, 910 (9th Cir. 2016).

18  
19  
20 **E. Defendants’ Recent Statements Call Into Question the Administration’s  
Commitment to the Rule of Law**

21 94. Neither the Order nor the *Flores* application offer any assurance that the  
22 Administration will not once again return to a family separation policy when its efforts to inter  
23 families together fail.

24  
25 95. To the contrary, on June 25, 2018, Attorney General Sessions told an audience in  
26 Reno, NV that DOJ would continue carrying out President Trump’s “zero-tolerance” directive

1 because to do otherwise “would encourage more adults to bring more children illegally on a  
2 dangerous journey.” The same day, CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan stated that his  
3 agency would stop referring parents with children for prosecution but that this is a “temporary”  
4 halt. See Shannon Pettypiece and Toluse Olorunnipa, *Border Patrol Halts Prosecution of*  
5 *Families Crossing Illegally* (June 25, 2018) available at  
6 [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-25/border-patrol-halts-prosecution-of-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-25/border-patrol-halts-prosecution-of-families-crossing-illegally)  
7 [families-crossing-illegally](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-25/border-patrol-halts-prosecution-of-families-crossing-illegally).  
8

9 96. Further, the Trump Administration’s statements from June 20, 2018-June 26,  
10 2018 raise the specter of further unconstitutional and unlawful acts.

11 97. For example, in response to the public outcry against family separation, the  
12 Administration appears to be preparing to intern thousands of families in military facilities. As  
13 Commissioner McAleenan explained, he is unable to refer parents for prosecution without  
14 separating them from their children due to lack of resources, but that he and his agency are  
15 working on a plan to resume criminal referrals. See Shannon Pettypiece and Toluse Olorunnipa,  
16 *Border Patrol Halts Prosecution of Families Crossing Illegally* (June 25, 2018) available at  
17 [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-25/border-patrol-halts-prosecution-of-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-25/border-patrol-halts-prosecution-of-families-crossing-illegally)  
18 [families-crossing-illegally](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-25/border-patrol-halts-prosecution-of-families-crossing-illegally).  
19

20 98. On June 21, 2018, at DHS’s request, the Pentagon agreed to host up to 20,000  
21 unaccompanied migrant children on military bases. See Dan Lamothe, Seung Min Kim and Nick  
22 Miroff, *Pentagon will make room for up to 20,000 migrant children on military bases*, the  
23 *Washington Post* (June 21, 2018) available at  
24 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2018/06/21/pentagon-asked-to-make->  
25 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2018/06/21/pentagon-asked-to-make->  
26

1 [room-for-20000-migrant-children-on-military-bases/?utm\\_term=.decab089f684,](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-military/pentagon-eyes-temporary-camps-for-immigrants-at-two-bases-idUSKBN1JL015) attached  
2 hereto as Ex. 32.

3 99. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis confirmed on June 24, 2018, that the military is  
4 preparing to construct camps for migrants on at least two military bases. See Phil Stewart,  
5 *Pentagon eyes temporary camps for immigrants at two bases*, Reuters (June 24, 2018) available  
6 at [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-military/pentagon-eyes-temporary-](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-military/pentagon-eyes-temporary-camps-for-immigrants-at-two-bases-idUSKBN1JL015)  
7 [camps-for-immigrants-at-two-bases-idUSKBN1JL015](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-military/pentagon-eyes-temporary-camps-for-immigrants-at-two-bases-idUSKBN1JL015), attached hereto as Ex. 33. Moreover, a  
8 planning document from the United States Navy details “temporary and austere” tent cities that  
9 would be able to house 25,000 migrants on abandoned airfields. See Philip Elliott, *Exclusive:*  
10 *Navy Document Shows Plan to Erect ‘Austere’ Detention Camps*, *Time* (June 22, 2018)  
11 [http://time.com/5319334/navy-detainment-centers-zero-tolerance-immigration-family-](http://time.com/5319334/navy-detainment-centers-zero-tolerance-immigration-family-separation-policy/)  
12 [separation-policy/](http://time.com/5319334/navy-detainment-centers-zero-tolerance-immigration-family-separation-policy/), attached hereto as Ex. 34.

13 100. Emerging reports as of June 25, 2018, suggest that immigration officials are using  
14 the children taken from their parents as leverage to coerce parents to withdraw their asylum  
15 claims. The family reunification Fact Sheet released by the Department of Homeland Security  
16 on June 23, 2018, provides for family reunification only for adults “who are subject to removal”  
17 so that they may be “reunited with their children for the purposes of removal.” See Fact Sheet:  
18 Zero Tolerance Prosecution and Family Reunification (June 23, 2018) available at  
19 <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/bulletins/1f98ad8>, attached hereto as Ex. 35.  
20 In other words, parents who hope to be quickly reunited with their children must abandon their  
21 own asylum claims and agree to withdraw their children’s claims to remain in the United States.  
22 See Dara Lind, *Trump will reunite separated families – but only if they agree to deportation*,  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 Vox (June 25, 2018) available at <https://www.vox.com/2018/6/25/17484042/children-parents->  
2 [separate-reunite-plan-trump](https://www.vox.com/2018/6/25/17484042/children-parents-separate-reunite-plan-trump), attached hereto as Ex. 36.

3 101. Parents have felt compelled to act accordingly. On June 24, 2018, a DHS official  
4 stated that parents separated from their children “were quickly given the option to sign  
5 paperwork leading to their deportation. Many chose to do so.” The June 24, 2018 tweet is  
6 available at <https://twitter.com/jacobsoboroff/status/1010862394103328771>, and attached  
7 hereto as Ex. 37. This is consistent with other accounts of parents signing voluntary deportation  
8 paperwork out of “desperation” because officials had suggested that it would lead to faster  
9 reunification with their children. *See, e.g., Jay Root and Shannon Najmabadi, Kids in exchange*  
10 *for deportation: Detained migrants say they were told they could get kids back on way out of*  
11 *U.S., Texas Tribune (June 24, 2018) available at* [https://www.texastribune.org/2018/06/24/kids-](https://www.texastribune.org/2018/06/24/kids-exchange-deportation-migrants-claim-they-were-promised-they-could/?utm_campaign=trib-social-buttons&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social)  
12 [exchange-deportation-migrants-claim-they-were-promised-they-could/?utm\\_campaign=trib-](https://www.texastribune.org/2018/06/24/kids-exchange-deportation-migrants-claim-they-were-promised-they-could/?utm_campaign=trib-social-buttons&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social)  
13 [social-buttons&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social](https://www.texastribune.org/2018/06/24/kids-exchange-deportation-migrants-claim-they-were-promised-they-could/?utm_campaign=trib-social-buttons&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social), attached hereto as Ex. 38.

14 102. Likewise, on June 24, 2018, a senior administrative official speaking on the  
15 condition of anonymity confirmed that defendants do not plan to reunite families until after a  
16 parent has lost his or her deportation case, effectively punishing parents who may otherwise  
17 pursue an asylum claim or other relief request and creating tremendous pressure to abandon such  
18 claims so that parents may be reunited with kids. *See Maria Saccherri, Michael Miller and*  
19 *Robert Moore, Sen. Warren visits detention center, says no children being returned to parents*  
20 *there, The Washington Post (June 24, 2018) available at*  
21 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/desperate-to-get-children-back-migrants->  
22 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/desperate-to-get-children-back-migrants->  
23 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/desperate-to-get-children-back-migrants->  
24 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/desperate-to-get-children-back-migrants->  
25 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/desperate-to-get-children-back-migrants->  
26 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/desperate-to-get-children-back-migrants->

1 [are-willing-to-give-up-asylum-claims-lawyers-say/2018/06/24/c7fab87c-77e2-11e8-80be-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/immigration/wp/2018/06/24/are-willing-to-give-up-asylum-claims-lawyers-say/2018/06/24/c7fab87c-77e2-11e8-80be-6d32e182a3bc_story.html)  
2 [6d32e182a3bc\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/immigration/wp/2018/06/24/are-willing-to-give-up-asylum-claims-lawyers-say/2018/06/24/c7fab87c-77e2-11e8-80be-6d32e182a3bc_story.html), attached hereto as Ex. 39.

3  
4 103. In recent days, President Trump has proposed deporting immigrants without  
5 hearing or legal process as his favored alternative. On June 21, 2018 President Trump stated:  
6 “We shouldn’t be hiring judges by the thousands, as our ridiculous immigration laws demand,  
7 we should be changing our laws, building the Wall, hire Border Agents and Ice and not let people  
8 come into our country based on the legal phrase they are told to say as their password.” See  
9 <https://mobile.twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1009770941604298753>.

10 104. On June 24, 2018, President Trump again proposed that immigrants who cross  
11 into the United States should be sent back immediately without due process or an appearance  
12 before a judge: “We cannot allow all of these people to invade our Country. When somebody  
13 comes in, we must immediately, with no Judges or Court Cases, bring them back from where  
14 they came. Our system is a mockery to good immigration policy and Law and Order. Most  
15 children come without parents...” See Katie Rogers and Sheryl Gay Stolberg, *Trump Calls for*  
16 *Depriving Immigrants Who Illegally Cross Border of Due Process Rights*, The New York Times  
17 (June 24, 2018) available at [https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/24/us/politics/trump-](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/24/us/politics/trump-immigration-judges-due-process.html)  
18 [immigration-judges-due-process.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/24/us/politics/trump-immigration-judges-due-process.html), attached hereto as Ex. 40.

19  
20 105. On June 25, 2018, President Trump continued: “Hiring manythousands [sic] of  
21 judges, and going through a long and complicated legal process, is not the way to go – will  
22 always be dysfunctional [sic]. People must simply be stopped at the Border and told they cannot  
23 come into the U.S. illegally. Children brought back to their country.....” The June 25, 2018  
24  
25  
26

1 tweet is available at <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1011228265003077632>, and  
2 attached hereto as Ex. 41.

3 106. On June 25, 2018, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
4 confirmed that CPB's halt of prosecution referrals "is a temporary solution. This isn't going to  
5 last. . . This will only last a short amount of time, because we're going to run out of space, we're  
6 going to run out of resources to keep people together." Secretary Sanders reiterated: "We're  
7 not changing the policy . . . We're simply out of resources. And at some point, Congress has to  
8 do what they were elected to do, and that is secure our border, that is stop the crime coming into  
9 our country." Secretary Sanders dodged questions regarding President Trump's recent  
10 suggestion that immigrants be afforded no due hearing or due process prior to deportation. *See*  
11 *Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders (June 25, 2018), available at*  
12 [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-062518/)  
13 [062518/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-062518/).

16 **F. Defendants' Policy Causes Devastating Harm To Children and Parents**

17 107. Separating families when a child's safety is not at risk causes immediate, acute  
18 trauma as well as foreseeable long term damage and harm to both the parents and the children.  
19 The negative effects and consequences of the Policy are likely to be long-lasting and in some  
20 cases debilitating.

22 108. Unless required to protect a child's safety, forced separation from their parents is  
23 likely to cause immediate and extreme psychological harm to young children, and the resulting  
24 cognitive and emotional damage can be permanent. Parental separation is a traumatic loss for  
25 the child; as a result they are likely to experience post-traumatic symptoms such as nightmares,  
26

1 and other manifestations of anxiety and depression, all of which are likely to increase in severity  
2 the longer the separation lasts and lead to the potential development of problematic coping  
3 strategies in both the near and long term. This trauma may be exacerbated for children who are  
4 fleeing persecution or violence in their home countries.

5  
6 109. Observations by those who have seen children recently separated pursuant to  
7 Defendants' Policy suggest that conditions created by Defendants will further exacerbate the  
8 separation trauma. By way of example, after touring a shelter along the Texas border to Mexico,  
9 Dr. Colleen Kraft, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, described a "screaming"  
10 girl, "no older than 2" who could not be comforted because shelter workers had been told they  
11 are not allowed to touch the children, not even to hold a crying child and convey some semblance  
12 of compassion. *See Immigrant children: What a doctor saw in a Texas shelter*, The Washington  
13 Post (June 17, 2018) available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/06/16/america-is-better-than-this-what-a-doctor-saw-in-a-texas-shelter-for-migrant-children/?utm_term=.e1e5566675e9)  
14 [nation/wp/2018/06/16/america-is-better-than-this-what-a-doctor-saw-in-a-texas-shelter-for-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/06/16/america-is-better-than-this-what-a-doctor-saw-in-a-texas-shelter-for-migrant-children/?utm_term=.e1e5566675e9)  
15 [migrant-children/?utm\\_term=.e1e5566675e9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/06/16/america-is-better-than-this-what-a-doctor-saw-in-a-texas-shelter-for-migrant-children/?utm_term=.e1e5566675e9), attached hereto as Ex. 42.

16  
17 110. These reports are also consistent with the observations of State employees who  
18 recently interviewed separated children living in Seattle. Every child displayed significant  
19 distress when relaying their experience and broke down when describing their separation. Some  
20 reported ongoing nightmares, others were so traumatized they could not continue the brief  
21 interviews.  
22

23 111. Similarly, parents who arrive together with their children at the U.S. border and  
24 then are separated from their children by the U.S. government are likely to experience immediate  
25 and acute psychological injury as a result. Under the Policy, many parents are being separated  
26



1 from their children suddenly without the chance to prepare the child or even say goodbye,  
2 without knowing where they or their children will be taken, without any guarantee of  
3 reunification, and often without contact with their children or with long gaps in that contact.  
4 When parents and children are allowed to speak, it is only briefly – ten minutes or so – by  
5 telephone.  
6

7 112. These otherwise fit parents are likely to experience deterioration of their mental  
8 and physical health in the aftermath of the forcible separation from their children with symptoms  
9 including anxiety, depression, PTSD, and other trauma-related disorders. In some cases, parental  
10 trauma from separation from their children will become unbearable because their available  
11 coping mechanisms may be overwhelmed by the sudden loss of the important role of parent and  
12 protector of the child. Indeed, at least one parent, distraught after officials pried his 3-year-old  
13 son from his arms, is reported to have committed suicide following the separation. *See* Nick  
14 Miroff, *A family separated at the border, and this distraught father took his own life*, (June 9,  
15 2018) available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/a-family-was-separated-at-the-border-and-this-distraught-father-took-his-own-life/2018/06/08/24e40b70-6b5d-11e8-9e38-24e693b38637\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.96a4606e47c7](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/a-family-was-separated-at-the-border-and-this-distraught-father-took-his-own-life/2018/06/08/24e40b70-6b5d-11e8-9e38-24e693b38637_story.html?utm_term=.96a4606e47c7), attached hereto as Ex.  
16  
17  
18  
19 43.

20  
21 113. These general observations were confirmed by interviewers who recently spoke  
22 with mothers detained in a federal facility in King County, Washington. The mothers were  
23 visibly upset, with some expressing panic and desperation, because they lacked information  
24 about their children's safety and did not know whether or when they would see their children  
25 again.  
26

1     **G.     The Policy Is Expressly Intended to Use Traumatized Children and Families to**  
2     **Deter Migration of Latina/o Immigrants and for Political Leverage**

3           114.     Defendants have changed public positions on the Policy numerous times over the  
4     last few weeks, but what has remained consistent throughout is Defendants’ unambiguous  
5     adoption of a policy at the Southwestern border that uses trauma as deterrence, and their  
6     insistence that Congress overhaul immigration laws to codify President Trump’s immigration  
7     agenda, including building a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. *See* JM Rieger, *The Trump*  
8     *Administration Changed its Story on Family Separation no Fewer than 14 Times Before Ending*  
9     *the Policy* (June 20, 2018) available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2018/06/20/the-trump-administration-changed-its-story-on-family-separation-no-fewer-than-14-times-before-ending-the-policy/?utm_term=.6719a188344f)  
10     [fix/wp/2018/06/20/the-trump-administration-changed-its-story-on-family-separation-no-fewer-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2018/06/20/the-trump-administration-changed-its-story-on-family-separation-no-fewer-than-14-times-before-ending-the-policy/?utm_term=.6719a188344f)  
11     [than-14-times-before-ending-the-policy/?utm\\_term=.6719a188344f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2018/06/20/the-trump-administration-changed-its-story-on-family-separation-no-fewer-than-14-times-before-ending-the-policy/?utm_term=.6719a188344f), Ex. 44 (collecting  
12     contradictory statements). Confirmation of these two goals is reflected in statements from a year  
13     ago and continued even after issuance of the Executive Order.

15           115.     As early as March 7, 2017, then-Secretary of DHS John Kelly confirmed that the  
16     Policy was intended to “to deter movement” along the Southwestern border. *See* Ex. 3. Later  
17     that year, a source who attended a DHS meeting to discuss ways to “deter immigrants from  
18     coming to the U.S. illegally” reported that the Policy was still being considered, but kept getting  
19     “bogged down” because of how “difficult and controversial it was.” *See* Ex. 4.

21           116.     On December 5, 2017, Kirstjen Nielsen replaced John Kelly as DHS Secretary.

22           117.     On February 8, 2018, 75 members of Congress wrote a letter to DHS Secretary  
23     Nielsen expressing “deep[] concern that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is  
24     separating families, including parents and their minor children . . . along the U.S.-Mexico  
25     border.” DHS’ “reported justification of this practice as a deterrent to family migration suggests  
26

1 a lack of understanding about the violence many families are fleeing in their home countries”  
2 and “[m]ore pointedly, the pretext of deterrence is not a legally sufficient basis for separating  
3 families.” The letter is attached hereto as Ex. 45.

4  
5 118. The letter details two complaints filed in December 2017 that confirmed DHS  
6 was “intentionally separating families for purposes of deterrence and punishment.” In particular,  
7 the second complaint documented “instances of infants and toddlers as young as one and two  
8 years old separated from their parents and rendered ‘unaccompanied’”—among these was “a  
9 father separated from his one-year-old son, Mateo, despite presenting appropriate documents to  
10 establish their relationship.” *Id.*

11  
12 119. Attorney General Sessions has confirmed that the Policy is intended to deter other  
13 families from entering the United States. For example, on April 6, 2018, he issued a warning to  
14 immigrants crossing the Southwestern border that “illegally entering this country will not be  
15 rewarded, but instead will be met with the full prosecutorial powers of the Department of Justice”  
16 and children “will be separated from [their parents].” *See* Ex. 12.

17  
18 120. In May 2018, DHS announced the results of its pilot at the El Paso border sector  
19 from July to November 2017. Its report—later found to be inaccurate—further confirms that  
20 deterrence is the primary purpose of the Policy. When asked about the Policy, DHS reported that  
21 “[t]he number of illegal crossings between ports of entry of family units dropped by 64 percent.  
22 This decrease was attributed to the prosecution of adults amenable to prosecution for illegal entry  
23 while risking the lives of their children. Of note, the numbers began rising again after the  
24 initiative was paused.” *See* Ex. 6. Notably, public reporting suggests that, based on DHS’ own  
25 statistics, these numbers are wrong and that there was, in fact, a 64% *increase* in apprehensions.  
26

1 *Id.*; *see also* US Border Patrol Southwest Border Apprehensions by Section FY2017, U.S.  
2 Customs and Border Protection *available at* [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-border-apprehensions-fy2017#field-content-tab-group-tab-9)  
3 [border-apprehensions-fy2017#field-content-tab-group-tab-9](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-border-apprehensions-fy2017#field-content-tab-group-tab-9), attached hereto as Ex. 46 and US  
4 Border Patrol Southwest Border Apprehensions by Section FY2018, U.S. Customs and Border  
5 Protection *available at* [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-border-](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-border-apprehensions#field-content-tab-group-tab-1)  
6 [apprehensions#field-content-tab-group-tab-1](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-border-apprehensions#field-content-tab-group-tab-1), attached hereto as Ex. 47.  
7

8 121. On May 11, 2018, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly was interviewed by  
9 National Public Radio. When asked whether he was in favor of the Policy, he acknowledged that  
10 “the vast majority of the people that move illegally into United States are not bad people.  
11 They’re not criminals. They’re not MS-13. . . . They’re not bad people. They’re coming here  
12 for a reason. And I sympathize with the reason. . . . But a big name of the game is deterrence.”  
13 *See* White House Chief of Staff John Kelly’s Interview with NPR (May 11, 2018) *available at*  
14 [https://www.npr.org/2018/05/11/610116389/transcript-white-house-chief-of-staff-john-kellys-](https://www.npr.org/2018/05/11/610116389/transcript-white-house-chief-of-staff-john-kellys-interview-with-npr)  
15 [interview-with-npr](https://www.npr.org/2018/05/11/610116389/transcript-white-house-chief-of-staff-john-kellys-interview-with-npr), transcript attached hereto as Ex. 48. He noted that the Policy “would be a  
16 tough deterrent” but that “this is a technique that no one hopes will be used extensively or for  
17 very long.” *Id.*  
18

19 122. On June 5, 2018, Attorney General Sessions was asked whether it was “absolutely  
20 necessary” to “separate parents from children when they are detained or apprehended at the  
21 border.” He responded, “yes” and “[i]f people don’t want to be separated from their children,  
22 they should not bring them with them. We’ve got to get this message out.” *See* Hugh Hewitt,  
23 US Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Children Separated From Parents at Border, F-1 Visas For  
24 PRC Students, and Masterpiece Cakeshop Decision (June 5, 2018) *available at*  
25  
26

1 <http://www.hughhewitt.com/attorney-general-jeff-sessions-on-the-immigration-policies->  
2 [concerning-children-apprehended-at-he-border-and-f-1-visas/](http://www.hughhewitt.com/attorney-general-jeff-sessions-on-the-immigration-policies-), transcript attached hereto as Ex.

3 49.

4  
5 123. On June 14, 2018, Attorney General Sessions quoted a Bible verse ostensibly to  
6 justify the Policy to leaders of the faith community and added: “Having children does not give  
7 you immunity from arrest and prosecution.” *See* Adam Edelman, *Sessions Cites Bible in Defense*  
8 *of Breaking up Families, Blames Migrant Parents* (June 14, 2018) *available at*  
9 <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/sessions-cites-bible-defense-breaking->  
10 [families-blames-migrant-parents-n883296](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/sessions-cites-bible-defense-breaking-), attached hereto as Ex. 50.

11  
12 124. Public statements suggest that the Trump Administration intends to use the  
13 Policy as a negotiating tool to force congressional acquiescence to its proposed immigration  
14 legislation. For example, President Trump tweeted on May 26, 2018 that Democrats should “end  
15 the horrible law that separates children from there [sic] parents once they cross the Border.” The  
16 May 26, 2018 tweet is available at  
17 <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1000375761604370434>, and attached hereto as Ex.  
18 51.

19  
20 125. On May 29, 2018 Senior Advisor to the President Stephen Miller confirmed that  
21 families are intentionally being traumatized for political gain: “If we were to have those  
22 [Republican sponsored] fixes in federal law, the migrant crisis emanating from Central America  
23 would largely be solved in a very short period of time,” and “[f]amilies would then therefore be  
24 able to be kept together and could be sent home expeditiously and safely.” *See* Ted Hesson,  
25 *White House’s Miller Blames Democrats for border crisis*, Politico (May 29, 2018) *available at*  
26

1 <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/05/29/stephen-miller-democrats-border-574537>, attached  
2 hereto as Ex. 52.

3 126. On June 16, 2018, President Trump confirmed that he is using the Policy to push  
4 lawmakers to enact immigration legislation more in line with his own agenda: “Democrats can  
5 fix their forced family breakup at the Border by working with Republicans on new legislation.”  
6 *See* Kate Sullivan, *Trump suggests separation of families at border is a negotiating tool* (June  
7 16, 2018) available at [https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/16/politics/trump-separation-families-](https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/16/politics/trump-separation-families-negotiating-tool/index.html)  
8 [negotiating-tool/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/16/politics/trump-separation-families-negotiating-tool/index.html), attached hereto as Ex. 53.

10 127. On June 18, 2018, President Trump complained that “[w]e have the worst  
11 immigration laws in the entire world. Nobody has such sad, such bad and actually, in many  
12 cases, such horrible and tough – you see about child separation, you see what’s going on there.”  
13 *See* Ex. 19. He suggested, “[i]f the Democrats would sit down, instead of obstructing, we could  
14 have something done very quickly, good for the children, good for the country, good for the  
15 world. It could take place quickly.” *Id.* But in the meantime, he stated, “The United States  
16 will not be a migrant camp and it will not be a refugee holding facility, it won’t be.” *Id.*

18 128. On June 18, 2018, in remarks before the National Sheriffs’ Association, Attorney  
19 General Sessions also suggested that if lawmakers would simply acquiesce to President Trump’s  
20 demands to fund a wall on the Southwestern border, Defendants would stop separating families:  
21 “We do not want to separate parents from their children,” “[i]f we build the wall, if we pass  
22 legislation to end the lawlessness, we won’t face these terrible choices.” *See* Ex. 20.

24 129. DHS Secretary Nielsen also linked the Policy with demands the Administration  
25 has made on Congress: “We are enforcing the laws passed by Congress, and we are doing all  
26

1 that we can in the executive branch to protect our communities. It is now time that Congress act  
2 to fix our broken immigration system.” *See* Ex. 21.

3 **H. Defendants’ Family Separation Policy Targets Immigrant Families Based on Their**  
4 **National Origin**

5 130. Defendants’ Policy is directed only at “Southwest Border crossings” (*see* Ex. 13),  
6 the majority of which consist of immigrants from Latin America. Indeed, in its reports on recent  
7 “Southwest Border Apprehensions,” CBP only tracks family unit apprehensions for immigrants  
8 from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. *See* U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border  
9 Apprehensions by Sector FY2018, *available at* [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-border-apprehensions)  
10 [border-apprehensions](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/usbp-sw-border-apprehensions), attached hereto as Ex. 54. Defendants do not track whether the Policy is  
11 impacting family unit migration from any other countries.  
12

13 131. Defendants’ stated rationale for adopting the Policy—*i.e.*, to deter migration—is  
14 ineffective and not a legitimate law enforcement tactic. Rather than deter migration, the number  
15 of families and unaccompanied children apprehended has steadily increased since Defendants  
16 have implemented the Policy. According to Defendants’ own statistics, in March 2018, the  
17 number of families apprehended at the Southwestern border was 37,385; in April 2018, 38,278;  
18 and in May 2018, 40,344. *See* Ex. 8. The number of family units arriving at ports of entry  
19 determined to be inadmissible also stayed relatively stable; in March 2018, the number was  
20 5,162, in April, 5,445, and in May 4,718. *Id.*  
21

22 132. Defendants also report that U.S. border agents made more than 50,000 arrests in  
23 each of the months of March, April and May 2018—“an indication that escalating enforcement  
24 tactics by the Trump Administration—including separating immigrant parents from their  
25 children—has not had an immediate deterrent effect.” *See* Nick Miroff, *Border arrests exceed*  
26

1 50,000 for third month in a row (June 6, 2018), available at  
2 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/border-arrests-exceed-50000-for-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/border-arrests-exceed-50000-for-third-month-in-a-row/2018/06/06/db6f15a6-680b-11e8-bea7-c8eb28bc52b1_story.html?utm_term=.72b8f43a7470)  
3 [third-month-in-a-row/2018/06/06/db6f15a6-680b-11e8-bea7-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/border-arrests-exceed-50000-for-third-month-in-a-row/2018/06/06/db6f15a6-680b-11e8-bea7-c8eb28bc52b1_story.html?utm_term=.72b8f43a7470)  
4 [c8eb28bc52b1\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.72b8f43a7470](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/border-arrests-exceed-50000-for-third-month-in-a-row/2018/06/06/db6f15a6-680b-11e8-bea7-c8eb28bc52b1_story.html?utm_term=.72b8f43a7470), attached hereto as Ex. 55.

5  
6 133. On May 23, 2018, Steven Wagner, Acting Secretary of the Administration for  
7 Children and Families testified before a Senate committee, stating: “In FY 2017, 84 percent of  
8 [unaccompanied alien minors] referred to ORR came from Honduras, Guatemala, and  
9 El Salvador. To date in FY 2018, 93 percent of referred children come from those countries.” A  
10 copy of the Wagner Statement is attached as Ex. 56.

11 134. On April 6, 2018, President Trump signed a memorandum ordering agencies to  
12 “expeditiously end” the practice of “catch and release,” a pejorative phrase that refers to the  
13 practice of allowing immigrants to be released into the community pending resolution of their  
14 immigration cases. See Jesse Byrnes, *Trump signs memo ordering end to ‘catch and release’*  
15 *practices*, The Hill, available at [http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/382054-trump-](http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/382054-trump-signs-memo-ordering-end-to-catch-and-release-practices)  
16 [signs-memo-ordering-end-to-catch-and-release-practices](http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/382054-trump-signs-memo-ordering-end-to-catch-and-release-practices), attached hereto as Ex. 57. For  
17 example, the memo orders DHS to submit a report within 45 days “detailing all measures that  
18 their respective departments have pursued or are pursuing to expeditiously end ‘catch and  
19 release’ practices.” *Id.* It also requests “a detailed list of all existing facilities, including military  
20 facilities, that could be used, modified, or repurposed to detain aliens for violations of  
21 immigration law” and specifically directs Attorney General Sessions and DHS Secretary  
22 Nielsen to identify any resources “that may be needed to expeditiously end ‘catch and release’  
23 practices.” *Id.*



1           135. The Policy—announced shortly thereafter—targets only the immigrants at the  
2 Southwestern border, the vast majority of whom are from Latin American countries. *See* Ex. 12.

3           136. In stark contrast to Defendants’ Southwestern border actions, DHS’ updated  
4 Northern Border Strategy, announced on June 12, 2018, aims “to facilitate the flow of lawful  
5 cross-border trade and travel, and strengthen cross-border community resilience.” Although the  
6 Northern Border Strategy is intended, in part, to “safeguard our northern border against terrorist  
7 and criminal threats,” the strategy does not demand prosecution and family separation for all  
8 unauthorized entrants at the northern border of the United States. *See* Department of Homeland  
9 Security Northern Border Strategy *available at*  
10 [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18\\_0612\\_PLCY\\_DHS-Northern-Border-](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18_0612_PLCY_DHS-Northern-Border-Strategy.pdf)  
11 [Strategy.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18_0612_PLCY_DHS-Northern-Border-Strategy.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 58.

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14           137. The Policy is intended to target immigrants by their country of origin and is  
15 consistent with the demonstrated anti-Latina/o bias repeatedly shown by President Trump.

16           138. Members of the Trump Administration repeatedly disparaged Latin American  
17 countries during the presidential campaign and during the Trump presidency. When Mr. Trump  
18 announced his campaign at Trump Tower in June 2015, he announced: “When Mexico sends its  
19 people, they’re not sending their best. . . . They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime.  
20 They’re rapists.” *See* Z. Byron Wolf, *Trump basically called Mexicans rapists again*, available  
21 at <https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/06/politics/trump-mexico-rapists/index.html>, attached hereto  
22 as Ex. 59. In that same speech, he first proposed the idea of building a wall along the  
23 Southwestern border and “mak[ing] Mexico pay for that wall.”  
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1           139. During the first Republican presidential debate, then-candidate Trump again  
2 stated his distaste for immigrants from Mexico: “The Mexican government is much smarter,  
3 much sharper, much more cunning. And they send the bad ones over because they don’t want  
4 to pay for them. They don’t want to take care of them.” See Andrew O’Reilly, *At GOP debate,*  
5 *Trump says ‘stupid’ U.S. leaders are being duped by Mexico*, Fox News (Aug. 6, 2015) available  
6 at [http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/06/at-republican-debate-trump-says-mexico-is-](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/06/at-republican-debate-trump-says-mexico-is-sending-criminals-because-us.html)  
7 [sending-criminals-because-us.html](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/06/at-republican-debate-trump-says-mexico-is-sending-criminals-because-us.html), attached hereto as Ex. 60.

9           140. Soon after, on August 25, 2015, then-candidate Trump refused to answer questions  
10 about immigration posed by Jorge Ramos, a Mexican-American and the top news anchor at  
11 Univision, a Spanish-language news network. After sending his bodyguard to physically remove  
12 Mr. Ramos, then-candidate Trump derisively told Mr. Ramos to “Go back to Univision.” See Phillip  
13 Rucker, *First, Trump booted Univision anchor Jorge Ramos out of his news conference. Then things*  
14 *got interesting*, The Washington Post, (Aug. 25, 2015) available at  
15 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/08/25/first-trump-booted-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/08/25/first-trump-booted-univision-anchor-jorge-ramos-out-of-his-news-conference-then-things-got-interesting/?utm_term=.33965c195aca)  
16 [univision-anchor-jorge-ramos-out-of-his-news-conference-then-things-got-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/08/25/first-trump-booted-univision-anchor-jorge-ramos-out-of-his-news-conference-then-things-got-interesting/?utm_term=.33965c195aca)  
17 [interesting/?utm\\_term=.33965c195aca](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2015/08/25/first-trump-booted-univision-anchor-jorge-ramos-out-of-his-news-conference-then-things-got-interesting/?utm_term=.33965c195aca), attached hereto as Ex. 61.

19           141. In May 2016, then-candidate Trump referred to anti-Trump protestors who  
20 carried the Mexican flag as “criminals” and “thugs.” Donald Trump, “The protestors in New  
21 Mexico were thugs who were flying the Mexican Flag.” The May 25, 2016 tweet is attached  
22 hereto as Ex. 62. Donald Trump, “Many of the thugs that attacked peaceful Trump supporters  
23 in San Jose were illegals.” The June 4, 2016 tweet is attached hereto as Ex. 63.  
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1           142. In June 2016, then-candidate Trump impugned the integrity of a federal judge  
2 presiding over a lawsuit against one of his businesses. Trump commented that Judge Gonzalo  
3 Curiel's rulings against him "[H]as to do with perhaps that I'm very, very strong on the border.  
4 . . . Now, he is Hispanic, I believe. He is a very hostile judge to me." See Jose A. DelReal and  
5 Katie Zezima, *Trump's personal, racially tinged attacks on federal judge alarm legal experts*,  
6 The Washington Post (June 1, 2016) available at  
7 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2016/06/01/437ccae6-280b-11e6-a3c4-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2016/06/01/437ccae6-280b-11e6-a3c4-0724e8e24f3f_story.html?utm_term=.c82ec7177a13)  
8 [0724e8e24f3f\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.c82ec7177a13](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2016/06/01/437ccae6-280b-11e6-a3c4-0724e8e24f3f_story.html?utm_term=.c82ec7177a13), attached hereto as Ex. 64.

10           143. U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan publicly rebuked his own party's presumptive  
11 presidential nominee, stating: "Claiming a person can't do the job because of their race is sort  
12 of like the textbook definition of a racist comment. I think that should be absolutely disavowed.  
13 It's absolutely unacceptable." See Tom Kertscher, *Donald Trump's racial comments about*  
14 *Hispanic judge in Trump University case*, Politifact (June 8, 2016) available at  
15 [http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/article/2016/jun/08/donald-trumps-racial-comments-](http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/article/2016/jun/08/donald-trumps-racial-comments-about-judge-trump-un/)  
16 [about-judge-trump-un/](http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/article/2016/jun/08/donald-trumps-racial-comments-about-judge-trump-un/), attached hereto as Ex. 65.

18           144. In an interview with CBS News on June 5, 2016, then-candidate Trump reiterated  
19 his views, noting that "[Judge Curiel]'s a member of a club or society very strongly, pro-Mexican,  
20 which is all fine. But I say he's got bias." See CBS News, Transcript of Face the Nation (June  
21 5, 2016) available at [https://www.cbsnews.com/news/face-the-nation-transcripts-june-5-2016-](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/face-the-nation-transcripts-june-5-2016-trump/)  
22 [trump/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/face-the-nation-transcripts-june-5-2016-trump/), attached hereto as Ex. 66. Judge Curiel is a member of the San Diego Chapter of the La  
23 Raza Lawyers Association. See Michelle Ye Hee Lee, *Trump Supporters' False Claim That*  
24 *Trump U Judge Is a Member of a Pro-immigrant Group*, The Washington Post (June 7, 2016)  
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1 available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/06/07/trump-  
4 supporters-false-claim-that-trump-u-judge-is-a-member-of-a-pro-immigrant-  
5 group/?utm\\_term=.07b5b0148791](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2016/06/07/trump-<br/>2 supporters-false-claim-that-trump-u-judge-is-a-member-of-a-pro-immigrant-<br/>3 group/?utm_term=.07b5b0148791), attached hereto as Ex. 67.

6 145. On August 21, 2015, two men urinated on a sleeping Latino man and then beat him  
7 with a metal pole. They later told police that “Donald Trump was right; all these illegals need to  
8 be deported.” When asked about the incident, then-candidate Trump failed to condemn the men,  
9 instead describing them as “passionate.” See Adrian Walker, *‘Passionate’ Trump fans behind*  
10 *homeless man’s beating?* (Aug. 21, 2015) available at  
11 [https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/08/20/after-two-brothers-allegedly-beat-homeless-  
14 man-one-them-admiringly-quote-donald-trump-deporting-  
15 illegals/I4NXR3Dr7litLi2NB4f9TN/story.html](https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/08/20/after-two-brothers-allegedly-beat-homeless-<br/>12 man-one-them-admiringly-quote-donald-trump-deporting-<br/>13 illegals/I4NXR3Dr7litLi2NB4f9TN/story.html), attached hereto as Ex. 68. Specifically, Trump  
16 stated, “[i]t would be a shame . . . I will say that people who are following me are very passionate.  
17 They love this country and they want this country to be great again. They are passionate.” *Id.*

18 146. In October 2016, during a presidential debate, then-candidate Trump responded  
19 to a question about immigration by stating: “We have some bad hombres here and we’re going  
20 to get them out.” See Katie Zezima, *Trump on immigration: There are ‘bad hombres’ in the*  
21 *United States*, The Washington Post (Aug. 30, 2017) available at  
22 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/10/19/trump-on-immigration-  
24 there-are-bad-hombres-in-the-united-states/?utm\\_term=.e24f12fed08a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/10/19/trump-on-immigration-<br/>23 there-are-bad-hombres-in-the-united-states/?utm_term=.e24f12fed08a), attached hereto as Ex.  
25 69.

26 147. On January 27, 2017, newly-inaugurated President Trump and Mexico’s  
President Peña Nieto discussed President Trump’s proposal for a border wall over the phone.

1 During that transcribed conversation, President Trump again referred to “hombres” stating:  
2 “You have some pretty tough hombres in Mexico that you may need help with, and we are  
3 willing to help you with that big-league. But they have to be knocked out and you have not done  
4 a good job of knocking them out.” *See* Greg Miller *et. al.*, *Full Transcripts of Trump’s Calls*  
5 *with Mexico and Australia*, The Washington Post (Aug. 3, 2017) available at  
6 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/you-cannot-say-that-to-the-press-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/you-cannot-say-that-to-the-press-trump-urged-mexican-president-to-end-his-public-defiance-on-border-wall-transcript-reveals/2017/08/03/0c2c0a4e-7610-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304_story.html?utm_term=.85f36aa7a876)  
7 [trump-urged-mexican-president-to-end-his-public-defiance-on-border-wall-transcript-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/you-cannot-say-that-to-the-press-trump-urged-mexican-president-to-end-his-public-defiance-on-border-wall-transcript-reveals/2017/08/03/0c2c0a4e-7610-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304_story.html?utm_term=.85f36aa7a876)  
8 [reveals/2017/08/03/0c2c0a4e-7610-11e7-8f39-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/you-cannot-say-that-to-the-press-trump-urged-mexican-president-to-end-his-public-defiance-on-border-wall-transcript-reveals/2017/08/03/0c2c0a4e-7610-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304_story.html?utm_term=.85f36aa7a876)  
9 [eeb7d3a2d304\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.85f36aa7a876](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/you-cannot-say-that-to-the-press-trump-urged-mexican-president-to-end-his-public-defiance-on-border-wall-transcript-reveals/2017/08/03/0c2c0a4e-7610-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304_story.html?utm_term=.85f36aa7a876), attached hereto as Ex. 70.  
10

11 148. In August 2017, President Trump pardoned Joe Arpaio, the former Arizona  
12 sheriff who oversaw operations that consistently targeted and harassed Latino residents in  
13 Maricopa County. After a thorough investigation, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a report  
14 in 2011 finding that Mr. Arpaio’s office had committed numerous civil rights violations by, *inter*  
15 *alia*, conducting immigration sweeps that routinely violated the Fourth Amendment; detaining  
16 Latino residents based on fabricated charges; placing Spanish-speaking inmates in solitary  
17 confinement as punishment for not speaking English; refusing to accept requests for basic  
18 services written in Spanish; pressuring Latino inmates to sign deportation forms; and referring  
19 to Latino inmates as “wetback,” “Mexican bitches,” and “stupid Mexicans.” *See* Letter/Report,  
20 attached hereto as Ex. 71. The report found that Mr. Arpaio’s own actions “promoted a culture  
21 of bias in his organization and clearly communicated to his officers that biased policing would  
22 not only be tolerated, but encouraged.” *Id.*  
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1           149. A federal judge ruled twice that Mr. Arpaio’s deputies unlawfully deprived  
2 detainees of food and medical care, and tortured inmates by locking them in unbearably hot  
3 solitary confinement cells in violation of the Eighth Amendment. *See* Mark Joseph Stern, *White*  
4 *Nationalist Rule is Already Here* (Aug. 15, 2017), available at [http://www.slate.com/news-and-](http://www.slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/06/district-court-judge-rules-that-trump-administration-child-separations-would-be-unconstitutional.html)  
5 [politics/2018/06/district-court-judge-rules-that-trump-administration-child-separations-would-](http://www.slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/06/district-court-judge-rules-that-trump-administration-child-separations-would-be-unconstitutional.html)  
6 [be-unconstitutional.html](http://www.slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/06/district-court-judge-rules-that-trump-administration-child-separations-would-be-unconstitutional.html), attached hereto as Ex. 72. The vast majority of individuals jailed by  
7 Mr. Arpaio’s office were Latinos detained on suspicion of being undocumented. *Id.* In issuing  
8 the pardon, President Trump stated that Mr. Arpaio “has done a lot in the fight against illegal  
9 immigration. He’s a great American patriot and I hate to see what has happened to him.” *Id.*  
10

11           150. In February 2018, President Trump referred to nations such as El Salvador as  
12 “shithole countries” in a meeting with lawmakers, and suggested that the U.S. preferred to  
13 receive immigrants from countries like Norway. *See* David Boddiger, *Trump falsely links*  
14 *Central American Immigrants to Drug Trafficking, Again* (Feb. 3, 2018) available at  
15 [https://splinternews.com/trump-falsely-links-central-american-immigrants-to-drug-](https://splinternews.com/trump-falsely-links-central-american-immigrants-to-drug-1822692216)  
16 [1822692216](https://splinternews.com/trump-falsely-links-central-american-immigrants-to-drug-1822692216), attached hereto as Ex. 73.  
17

18           151. That same month, President Trump said of undocumented immigrants from  
19 Mexico and Central America, “You know they’re bad. They’re pouring in from El Salvador,  
20 Honduras, Mexico, all over.” *See* Ex. 73. He added, “These countries are not our friends.” *Id.*  
21

22           152. In April 2018, President Trump expressed repeated frustration with immigration  
23 numbers at the Southwestern border, and made a number of racially charged comments around  
24 the time he issued the memorandum directing DHS Secretary Nielsen and Attorney General  
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1 Sessions to end catch-and-release practices. For example, President Trump again insinuated that  
2 Mexican immigrants are rapists. *See* Ex. 59.

3 153. President Trump also commented multiple times about a “caravan” of Central  
4 American immigrants aiming to reach the Southwestern border, many of whom planned on  
5 seeking asylum. He stated that “Mexico has the absolute power to not let these large ‘Caravans’  
6 of people enter our country.” *See* Edgard Garrido, *Migrant ‘caravan’ that angers Trump nears*  
7 *U.S.-Mexico border*, Reuters (April 23, 2018), available at [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-caravan/migrant-caravan-that-angers-trump-nears-u-s-mexico-border-idUSKBN1HU2ZB)  
8 [usa-immigration-caravan/migrant-caravan-that-angers-trump-nears-u-s-mexico-border-](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-caravan/migrant-caravan-that-angers-trump-nears-u-s-mexico-border-idUSKBN1HU2ZB)  
9 [idUSKBN1HU2ZB](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-caravan/migrant-caravan-that-angers-trump-nears-u-s-mexico-border-idUSKBN1HU2ZB), attached hereto as Ex. 74. The “caravans” are an apparent reference to a  
10 contingent of Latin American immigrants traveling through Mexico. *Id.* President Trump stated:  
11 “If it reaches our border, our laws are so weak and so pathetic . . . it’s like we have no border.”  
12 *See* Klein, Starr, Shoichet, *Trump: ‘We’re going to be guarding our border with the military’*  
13 *until wall complete* (April 3, 2018) available at  
14 <https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/03/politics/trump-border-wall-military/index.html>, attached  
15 hereto as Ex. 75. He added, “[t]he caravan makes me very sad that this could happen to the  
16 United States.” *Id.*

17 154. After expressing frustration regarding the “caravan,” President Trump announced  
18 that he planned to dispatch U.S. troops to guard the U.S.-Mexico border because “we have very  
19 bad laws for our border” so “we’re going to do some things militarily, until we can have a wall  
20 and proper security—we’re going to be guarding our border with the military.” *See* Ex. 75.  
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1           155. On June 19, 2018, President Trump tweeted that without strong border policies  
2 “illegal immigrants” would “pour into and infest our Country.” See  
3 <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1009071403918864385>.

4  
5           156. On June 20, 2018, shortly after signing the Executive Order, at a rally in Duluth,  
6 Minnesota amid chants of “Build the Wall,” President Trump repeated: “They’re not sending  
7 their finest. We’re sending them the hell back. That’s what we’re doing.” See Katie Rogers and  
8 Jonathan Martin, *‘We’re Sending them the Hell Back,’ Trump Says of Securing the Country’s*  
9 *Borders*, The New York Times (June 20, 2018) available at  
10 <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/20/us/politics/trump-minnesota-rally.html>, attached hereto  
11 as Ex. 76.

12  
13 **I. The Policy Has Been Widely Denounced by the United Nations, Professional**  
14 **Organizations, Public Figures, and Religious Leaders**

15           157. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has called for an end  
16 to the Policy, saying, “The thought that any state would seek to deter parents by inflicting such  
17 abuse on children is unconscionable. I call on the United States to immediately end the practice  
18 of forcible separation of these children.” See Stephanie Nebehay, *U.N. rights boss calls for an*  
19 *end to Trump’s policy of family separation*, (June 18, 2018) available at  
20 [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-rights/un-rights-boss-calls-for-end-to-trumps-policy-of-](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-rights/un-rights-boss-calls-for-end-to-trumps-policy-of-family-separation-idUSKBN1JE0NA)  
21 [family-separation-idUSKBN1JE0NA](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-rights/un-rights-boss-calls-for-end-to-trumps-policy-of-family-separation-idUSKBN1JE0NA), attached hereto as Ex. 77. A spokesperson for the U.N.  
22 also said that the Policy “amounts to arbitrary and unlawful interference in family life, and is a  
23 serious violation of the rights of the child.” See Nick Cumming-Bruce, *Taking Migrant Children*  
24 *From Parents Is Illegal*, *U.N. Tells U.S.*, available at  
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1 <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/05/world/americas/us-un-migrant-children-families.html>,  
2 attached hereto as Ex. 78.

3 158. Numerous professional and religious organizations have also denounced the  
4 Policy. On June 12, 2018, the American Bar Association (ABA) expressed “strong opposition”  
5 to Defendants’ “separation of children from their parents when arriving at the southern border,”  
6 calling the practice “unfair, inhumane, and, in the end, ineffective.” *See* ABA letter attached  
7 hereto as Ex. 79 (noting “that the primary purpose of the ‘zero tolerance’ Policy is to serve as a  
8 deterrent for migrant parents” at the Southwestern border, and “that family separation is not a  
9 collateral consequence of regular law enforcement” but “an explicitly intentional goal.”).

10  
11 159. The Policy has also been widely condemned by the medical community. For  
12 example, the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) recently denounced Defendants’ Policy,  
13 writing: “Separating children from their parents contradicts everything we stand for as  
14 pediatricians – protecting and promoting children’s health. In fact, highly stressful experiences,  
15 like family separation, can cause irreparable harm, disrupting a child’s brain architecture and  
16 affecting his or her health. This type of prolonged exposure to serious stress - known as toxic  
17 stress - can carry lifelong consequences for children.” *See* AAP Statement Opposing Separation  
18 of Mothers and Children at the Border (March 4, 2017), *available at* [https://www.aap.org/en-](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/immigrantmotherschildrenseparation.aspx)  
19 [us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/immigrantmotherschildrenseparation.aspx](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/immigrantmotherschildrenseparation.aspx), attached  
20 hereto as Ex. 80; *See also* AAP Statement Opposing Separation of Children and Parents at the  
21 Border (May 8, 2018), *available at* [https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/StatementOpposingSeparationofChildrenandParents.aspx)  
22 [room/Pages/StatementOpposingSeparationofChildrenandParents.aspx](https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/StatementOpposingSeparationofChildrenandParents.aspx), attached hereto as Ex.  
23 81; The American Academy of Family Physicians also released a statement in opposition, urging  
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1 the federal government to “withdraw its policy” and “instead, give priority to supporting families  
2 and protecting the health and well-being of the children within those families.” *See* American  
3 Academy of Family Physicians Statement Regarding the United States Department of Homeland  
4 Security’s Policy to Separate Children from Adult Caregivers available at  
5 [https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/advocacy/prevention/equality/ST-](https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/advocacy/prevention/equality/ST-DHSPolicyChild-AdultSeparation-061618.pdf)  
6 [DHSPolicyChild-AdultSeparation-061618.pdf](https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/advocacy/prevention/equality/ST-DHSPolicyChild-AdultSeparation-061618.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 82. Further, the American  
7 Medical Association “strongly urge[d]” the Defendants to withdraw the Policy, writing, “It is  
8 well known that childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences created by inhumane  
9 treatment often create negative health impacts that can last an individual’s entire lifespan.” *See*  
10 *AMA Urges Administration to Withdraw “Zero Tolerance” Policy* (June 20, 2018) *available at*  
11 <https://www.ama-assn.org/ama-urges-administration-withdraw-zero-tolerance-policy>, attached  
12 hereto as Ex. 83.

13  
14  
15 160. On June 13, 2018, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo of the United States Conference of  
16 Catholic Bishops (USCCB) “join[ed] Bishop Joe Vásquez, Chairman of USCCB’s Committee  
17 on Migration, in condemning the continued use of family separation at the U.S./Mexico border:  
18 “Families are the foundational element of our society” and separating parent from child “is not  
19 the answer” to “protecting our borders.” *See* A Statement from Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, United  
20 States Conference of Catholic Bishops, (June 13, 2018) *available at*  
21 <http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-098.cfm>, attached hereto as Ex. 84.

22  
23 161. Likewise, the Southern Baptist Convention recently passed a resolution affirming  
24 that immigrants be treated “with the same respect and dignity as those native born,” and  
25 emphasizing “maintaining the priority of family unity.” *See* Sasha Ingber, *Faith Leaders Oppose*  
26

1 *Trump's Immigration Policy of Separating Children From Parents*, available at  
2 [https://www.npr.org/2018/06/16/620651574/faith-leaders-oppose-trumps-immigration-policy-](https://www.npr.org/2018/06/16/620651574/faith-leaders-oppose-trumps-immigration-policy-of-separating-children-from-paren)  
3 [of-separating-children-from-paren](https://www.npr.org/2018/06/16/620651574/faith-leaders-oppose-trumps-immigration-policy-of-separating-children-from-paren), attached hereto as Ex. 85.

4  
5 162. Prominent figures from both political parties have denounced the Policy. For  
6 example, on June 17, 2018, former First Lady Laura Bush wrote: "Our government should not  
7 be in the business of warehousing children in converted box stores or making plans to place them  
8 in tent cities in the desert outside of El Paso. These images are eerily reminiscent of the Japanese  
9 American internment camps of World War II, now considered to have been one of the most  
10 shameful episodes in U.S. history." See Laura Bush: *Separating Children from Their Parents at*  
11 *the Border Breaks my Heart*, The Washington Post, available at  
12 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/laura-bush-separating-children-from-their-parents-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/laura-bush-separating-children-from-their-parents-at-the-border-breaks-my-heart/2018/06/17/f2df517a-7287-11e8-9780-b1dd6a09b549_story.html?utm_term=.84b533c697a8)  
13 [at-the-border-breaks-my-heart/2018/06/17/f2df517a-7287-11e8-9780-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/laura-bush-separating-children-from-their-parents-at-the-border-breaks-my-heart/2018/06/17/f2df517a-7287-11e8-9780-b1dd6a09b549_story.html?utm_term=.84b533c697a8)  
14 [b1dd6a09b549\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.84b533c697a8](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/laura-bush-separating-children-from-their-parents-at-the-border-breaks-my-heart/2018/06/17/f2df517a-7287-11e8-9780-b1dd6a09b549_story.html?utm_term=.84b533c697a8), attached hereto as Ex. 86. Likewise, Jeb  
15 Bush, former Florida Governor, recently stated: "Children shouldn't be used as a negotiating  
16 tool." The June 18, 2018 tweet is attached hereto as Ex. 87.

17  
18 163. At least one federal court has found that Defendants' practice of separating  
19 immigrant families "arbitrarily tears at the sacred bond between parent and child" and "is brutal,  
20 offensive, and fails to comport with traditional notions of fair play and decency." *Ms. L. v. U.S*  
21 *Immigration & Customs Enf't*, No. 18-cv-0428 DMS, 2018 WL 2725736, at \*12 (S.D. Cal.  
22 June 6, 2018).

1     **J.     Defendants’ Policy Harms the States’ Sovereign Interests**

2             164.   Defendants’ Policy and subsequent actions harm the States’ sovereign interests  
3     by interfering with their licensing authority and rendering the States unable to honor their own  
4     policies favoring family unity.

5  
6             165.   Even for residential facilities that are federally funded, States have sovereign  
7     responsibility for the licensing, inspection, and monitoring of out-of-home care providers (i.e.,  
8     providers who care for children away from their parents). The States conduct periodic licensing  
9     monitoring visits to these facilities, meeting with the staff and children in their care, to ensure  
10    that these facilities meet minimum safety standards, including background check approvals,  
11    facility safety standards, and ensuring the facilities provide necessary and appropriate care to the  
12    children.

13  
14            166.   For example, in Washington State, any agency that cares for children on a 24-hour  
15    basis away from their parents must be licensed. *See, e.g.* RCW 74.15.020, 74.15.090. Under  
16    RCW 74.15.030(7) and .080, the state’s department of social and health services has the  
17    authority and duty to access and inspect the facility’s records for the purpose of determining  
18    whether or not there is compliance with state licensing requirements. *See also* ch. 388-145 WAC  
19    (the licensing requirements for group homes and youth shelters). These licensing requirements  
20    apply to all private facilities, even those operated by a private agency contracting with the federal  
21    government.

22  
23            167.   In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, no “agency or institution of the federal  
24    government” may operate a “[foster care] placement agency, group care facility, or temporary  
25    shelter facility” for children unless licensed by the Department of Early Education and Care  
26

1 (EEC). Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 15D, § 1A, 6. EEC “may, at any reasonable time, visit and inspect  
2 any facility” subject to such licensure. *Id.* § 9.

3         168. Likewise, New York State has licensing and oversight responsibilities over the  
4 facilities where immigrant children who are separated from their parents are placed. Specifically,  
5 the Bureau of Child Welfare and Community Services (“CWCS”) of the New York State Office  
6 of Children and Family Services (“OCFS”) has regulatory, licensing, inspection and supervisory  
7 authority over residential programs that care for foster children. N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law §§ 460-b,  
8 460-c, 462-a. OCFS issues operating certificates to non-profit agencies in New York State that  
9 provide residential care in a congregate setting to UACs, including the children who have been  
10 separated from their parents at the border. OCFS, as the licensing state agency of child residential  
11 programs in New York, retains the authority to conduct building, equipment, fire and safety  
12 inspections of these facilities. Also, OCFS has the statutory authority to establish regulatory  
13 standards for the certification or approval of foster homes, and the authority of an agency to  
14 certify or approve foster homes. N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law §§ 378, 460-a, N.Y. Not-for-Profit Corp.  
15 Law § 404(b). Provider agencies in New York that contract with ORR place UACs in foster  
16 homes that the agency has approved or certified pursuant to this authority from the state.

17         169. In the State of North Carolina, “[n]o person shall operate, establish or provide  
18 foster care for children or receive and place children in residential care facilities, family foster  
19 homes, or adoptive homes without first applying for a licensure to the Department” of Health  
20 and Human Services]. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 131D-10.3. In addition to other powers and duties, the  
21 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services also has the authority to “[i]nspect  
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1 facilities and obtain records, documents, and other information necessary to determine  
2 compliance with” North Carolina law and regulations. *Id.* § 131D-10.6(6).

3 170. Likewise, Delaware licenses, registers, and monitors all residential and  
4 nonresidential childcare facilities including . . . child placement and adoption agencies . . .”  
5 29 *Del. C.* § 9003 (7). Delaware’s monitoring scheme includes the right of entrance, inspection,  
6 and access to the papers of childcare facilities operating within Delaware and entities that operate  
7 within Delaware and place children in other states. 31 *Del. C.* §§ 343, 344. In certain  
8 circumstances, a violation of Delaware’s childcare licensing requirements may constitute a  
9 criminal act. 31 *Del. C.* § 345.  
10

11 171. Other States have similar licensing authority and statutory regimes. These  
12 provisions are intended to protect children from substandard housing and care, and are essential  
13 to the wellbeing of minors placed in facilities located in the States.  
14

15 172. The United States’ *Ex Parte* Application for relief from the *Flores* Settlement is  
16 a frontal attack on that sovereign interest. That request seeks rescission of *Flores*’s protections  
17 and a “determin[ation] that the Agreement’s state licensure requirement does not apply to ICE  
18 family residential facilities.” The United States has thus sought to extinguish state licensing  
19 powers over federally contracted out-of-home care providers, leaving those facilities wholly  
20 unregulated at the local level. The government’s attempt to modify the *Flores* settlement terms  
21 by removing States’ licensing authority and jurisdiction interferes with the States’ sovereign  
22 powers.  
23

24 173. Moreover, each of the States is required to respect family integrity absent a  
25 finding that a parent is unfit or unavailable to care for a child. Here, the federal government has  
26

1 intentionally separated parents from children and is leaving it to the States' court systems to  
2 establish alternative guardianships for them, or relying on state-licensed foster care facilities to  
3 care for the children, rendering the States unable to enforce the legal mandates and public  
4 policies that require keeping families together unless the best interests of the child dictate  
5 otherwise.  
6

7 174. For example, the **State of Washington** has a longstanding public policy affirming  
8 the importance of family integrity and the primacy of the parent-child relationship. Wash. Rev.  
9 Code § 13.34.020 “declares that the family unit is a fundamental resource of American life which  
10 should be nurtured” and mandates “that the family unit should remain intact unless a child’s right  
11 to conditions of basic nurture, health, or safety is jeopardized.” Wash. Rev. Code § 26.09.002  
12 likewise “recognizes the fundamental importance of the parent-child relationship to the welfare  
13 of the child” and requires “that the relationship between the child and each parent [] be fostered  
14 unless inconsistent with the child’s best interests.” Similarly, Washington’s child abuse and  
15 neglect law, contained in chapter 26.44 RCW, enshrines the state’s policy that “[t]he bond  
16 between a child and his or her parent . . . is of paramount importance[.]” RCW 26.44.010. Under  
17 Washington law, the state is justified to intervene in that relationship only when a child is  
18 deprived of the right to conditions of minimal nurture, health, and safety.  
19

20 175. Washington also has recognized that children in government custody have  
21 substantive due process rights under the U.S. Constitution. *See Braam v State of Washington*,  
22 150 Wn.2d 689, 81 P.3d 851 (2003) (foster children possess substantive due process rights).  
23 While these rights are not coextensive with parental rights in every context, Washington  
24 recognizes a child’s constitutional rights “to be free from unreasonable risk of harm, including a  
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26

1 risk flowing from the lack of basic services, and a right to reasonable safety.” *Id.* The intentional  
2 exposure of a child to an unreasonable risk of harm, including physical or mental injury, violates  
3 these rights.

4  
5 176. Washington has also declared that practices that discriminate against any of its  
6 inhabitants because of race, creed, color, or national origin are matters of public concern that  
7 threaten the rights and proper privileges of the State and harm the public welfare, health, and  
8 peace of the people. *See* Wash. Rev. Code § 49.60.010.

9  
10 177. **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts** has long committed itself to the  
11 promotion and safeguarding of the family unit. Massachusetts law, for example, notes that “the  
12 family is the best source of child rearing,” 110 C.M.R. 1.02, and holds that “the policy of this  
13 commonwealth [is] to direct its efforts, first, to the strengthening and encouragement of family  
14 life for the care and protection of children.” Mass. Gen. Laws c. 119, § 1. Normally, therefore,  
15 “the interest of the child is best served by a stable, continuous environment with his or her own  
16 family.” *Adoption of Frederick*, 405 Mass. 1, 4 (1989). As a result, the Commonwealth allows  
17 “state intervention into a family unit [to] be used only when it is clearly needed to protect a  
18 child.” 110 C.M.R. 1.02.

19  
20 178. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has also long protected the civil rights and  
21 liberties of its residents, outlawing practices that harm or discriminate individuals based on race,  
22 color, religious creed, or national origin. *See, e.g.*, Mass. Gen. Laws c. 151B, § 4; c. 151C, § 2;  
23 c. 76, § 5; and c. 272, § 98.

24  
25 179. **The State of Oregon** has statutorily codified a number of deeply-rooted public  
26 concerns that are grossly undermined by defendants’ unlawful actions, thus harming Oregon’s



1 sovereign interests. Oregon recognizes the intrinsic value of family relationships and prioritizes  
2 protecting them. For example, Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.007 states the policy of Oregon is to  
3 “preserve family life” by “stabilizing the family.” In addition, Oregon has declared there is a  
4 “strong preference” that children live “with their own families.” Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.090(5).  
5 Similarly, custody determinations are based on the best interest of the child, including “[t]he  
6 emotional ties between the child and other family members” as well as “[t]he desirability of  
7 continuing an existing relationship.” *Id.* Oregon thus places great value on the parent-child  
8 relationship, on “interaction, companionship, interplay and mutuality, that fulfilled the child’s  
9 psychological needs for a parent” in addition to a child’s physical needs. Or. Rev. Stat. § 109.119  
10 (10)(a).  
11

12         180. Oregon further recognizes that children are individuals who have legal rights.  
13 Among those rights are “freedom from...emotional abuse or exploitation.” Or. Rev. Stat. §  
14 419B.090(1). To that end, Oregon has enacted laws and policies to protect children’s rights. For  
15 example, “[i]t is the policy of the State of Oregon to safeguard and promote each child’s right to  
16 safety, stability and well-being and to safeguard and promote each child’s relationships with  
17 parents, siblings, grandparents, other relatives and adults with whom a child develops healthy  
18 emotional attachments.” Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.090(3).  
19

20         181. Moreover, Oregon acknowledges the importance of due process rights afforded  
21 to parents facing “interference” with their right to “direct the upbringing of their children”  
22 because the policy of Oregon is to “guard the liberty interest of parents protected by the  
23 Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and to protect the rights and interests  
24 of children.” Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.090(4). Oregon requires appointment of legal counsel for  
25  
26

1 parents whenever due process so requires, and courts must consider “[t]he duration of and degree  
2 of invasiveness of the interference with the parent-child relationship” that could result from legal  
3 proceedings as well as the “effects” the proceedings may have on later proceedings or events  
4 that may interfere with the parent-child relationship. Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.205(1). Pursuant to  
5 Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.165, a child taken into custody must be released to a parent unless a court  
6 order prevents it or there is probable cause to believe the child may be endangered by immediate  
7 release.  
8

9 182. When parents and children are separated, Oregon prioritizes a child’s existing  
10 relationships in considering placement alternatives. For example, “there shall be a preference  
11 given to placement of the child or ward with relatives and persons who have a caregiver  
12 relationship with the child.” Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.192(1). Oregon law also recognizes the value  
13 of sibling relationships and requires state social agencies to make “diligent efforts” to keep  
14 siblings together when they have been separated from their parents. Or. Rev. Stat. §  
15 419B.192(2).  
16

17 183. Children separated from families in Oregon are entitled to participate in age and  
18 developmentally appropriate activities. Specifically, this includes activities that are reflective  
19 of and promote “development of cognitive, emotional, physical and behavioral capacities that  
20 are typical for an age or age group.” Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.194(a)(A). Moreover, Oregon  
21 requires appropriate activities for a specific child separated from family “based on the  
22 developmental stages attained by the child.” Or. Rev. Stat. § 419B.194(a)(B). In making these  
23 determinations, the “reasonable and prudent parent standard” applies. Or. Rev. Stat. §  
24 419B.194(b). The standard is characterized by “careful and sensible parental decisions that  
25  
26

1 maintain the health, safety and best interests of a child or ward while encouraging the emotional  
2 and developmental growth of the child or ward...” *Id.*

3 184. Oregon has also codified anti-discrimination policies that protect all Oregon  
4 residents from disparate treatment based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national  
5 origin, marital status or age. Or. Rev. Stat. § 659A.403(1). Further, it is unlawful for any person  
6 to deny another full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of any  
7 place of public accommodation. Or. Rev. Stat. § 659A.403(3).

9 185. The **State of California** similarly has a long history of preserving the integrity of  
10 the family unit and the parent-child relationship. For example, California Welfare and  
11 Institutions Code section 11205 declares “the family unit is of fundamental importance to society  
12 in nurturing its members,” and states “[e]ach family has the right and responsibility to provide  
13 sufficient support and protection of its children.” California’s policy to “preserve and strengthen  
14 a child’s family ties whenever possible” and to remove a child from the custody of his or her  
15 parents “only when necessary for his or her welfare or for the safety and protection of the public”  
16 is delineated in California Welfare and Institution Code section 201, subdivision (a), and section  
17 16000, subdivision (a).  
18

19 186. California’s interests in protecting the physical, emotional and psychological  
20 health of minors and in preserving and fostering the parent-child relationship “are extremely  
21 important interests that rise to the level of ‘compelling interests’ for purposes of constitutional  
22 analysis.” *American Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren*, 16 Cal. 4th 307, 348 (1997).  
23  
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1           187. It is California policy that social services programs must prevent or reduce  
2 inappropriate institutional care by providing community-based care, home-based care, or other  
3 forms of less intensive care. Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 13003(4).

4           188. In California, per statute, any out-of-home placement of children must be in the  
5 “least restrictive family setting,” and should promote “normal childhood experiences that [are]  
6 suited to meet the child's or youth's individual needs.” Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 16000(a).

7           189. California also has robust constitutional and statutory protections against  
8 discrimination. For example, the California Constitution protects against discrimination on the  
9 basis of race, creed, color or national or ethnic origin. Cal. Const. art. I, § 8. California law also  
10 protects against discrimination on the basis of ancestry, citizenship, primary language, and  
11 immigration status. Cal. Civ. Code § 51. California is also committed to developing strategic  
12 policies and plans regarding health issues affecting immigrants and refugees. Cal. Health & Saf.  
13 Code § 131019.5.

14           190. **The State of New Mexico’s** laws embody a public policy dedicated to the  
15 preservation of the family unit. NMSA 1978, Sec. 32A-1-3 (2009). To “the maximum extent  
16 possible, children in New Mexico shall be reared as members of a family unit.” *Id.* *See also*  
17 NMSA 1978, Section 40-15-3 (2005) (“It is the policy of the state that its laws and programs  
18 shall: support intact, functional families and promote each family's ability and responsibility to  
19 raise its children; strengthen families in crisis and at risk of losing their children, so that children  
20 can remain safely in their own homes when their homes are safe environments and in their  
21 communities...help halt the breakup of the nuclear family[.]”). Further, New Mexico’s Family  
22 Preservation Act clearly indicates the purpose of the Act is to “confirm the state’s policy of  
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1 support for the family” as a “institution” and that the Act is “intended to serve as a benchmark  
2 against which other legislation may be measured to assess whether it furthers the goals of  
3 preserving and enhancing families in New Mexico.” NMSA 1978, Section 40-15-2 (2005). New  
4 Mexico case law affirms there is a clearly established right to familial integrity embodied in the  
5 Fourteenth Amendment. *Oldfield v. Benavidez*, 1994-NMSC-006, ¶ 14, 116 N.M. 785.

7 191. The New Mexico Children’s Code also ensures that New Mexican parents have  
8 substantial due process protections prior to losing the right to care of and custody of their own  
9 children. See NMSA 1978, Section 32A-4-28. The sole fact that a parent is incarcerated is not  
10 a basis for terminating parental rights. *Id.* A parent's fundamental liberty interest in the care,  
11 custody, and management of their children is well established. See *State ex rel. Children, Youth*  
12 *& Families Dep't v. Mafin M.*, 2003-NMSC-015, ¶ 18, 133 N.M. 827, 70 P.3d 1266; *State ex*  
13 *rel. Children, Youth & Families Dep't v. Joe R.*, 1997-NMSC-038, ¶ 29, 123 N.M. 711, 945  
14 P.2d 76. “[T]he parent-child relationship is one of basic importance in our society ... sheltered  
15 by the Fourteenth Amendment against the State's unwarranted usurpation, disregard, or  
16 disrespect.” *State ex rel. Children, Youth & Families Dep't v. Anne McD.*, 2000-NMCA-020, ¶  
17 22, 128 N.M. 618, 995 P.2d 1060 (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks and citation  
18 omitted). Thus, we have recognized that process is due when a proceeding affects or interferes  
19 with the parent-child relationship. *State ex rel. Children, Youth & Families Dep't v. Stella P.*,  
20 1999-NMCA-100, ¶ 14, 127 N.M. 699, 986 P.2d 495; *State ex rel. Children, Youth & Families*  
21 *Dep't v. Rosa R.*, 1999-NMCA-141, ¶ 13, 128 N.M. 304, 992 P.2d 317 (recognizing that  
22 constitutionally adequate procedures must be in place before the State can investigate or  
23 terminate the parent-child relationship).

1           192. New Mexico custody determinations are also driven by the best interests of the  
2 child. *See Schuermann v. Schuermann*, 1980-NMSC-027, ¶ 6, 94 N.M. 81 (“In any proceeding  
3 involving custody, the courts' primary concern and consideration must be for the child's best  
4 interests.”) (citing NMSA 1978, Section 40-4-9(A) (1977)). “In any case in which a judgment  
5 or decree will be entered awarding the custody of a minor, the district court shall, if the minor is  
6 under the age of fourteen, determine custody in accordance with the best interests of the child.”  
7  
8 *Id.*

9           193. The laws of the State of New Mexico dictate that the best interests of a child, if  
10 not properly within the custody of their parents, then lies in the custody of other family members.  
11 This policy is not only rooted in the best interests of children generally, but is designed to protect  
12 both family unity as well as unique cultural heritage. Under the State’s Kinship Guardianship  
13 Act, family members have a protected interest in raising a child when neither parent is available.  
14 NMSA 1978, Section 40-10B-2 (2001). Where the United States’ policy of family separation  
15 does not provide a meaningful opportunity for children who are separated from their parents to  
16 unite with other members of their family, it is direct contravention of the laws of this state and  
17 the policy principles that underlying those laws. Further, because “a kinship guardian possesses  
18 the same legal rights and responsibilities of a biological parent,” members of separated children’s  
19 families should be afforded the opportunity to seek custody of their relatives. *State ex rel.*  
20 *Children, Youth & Families Dep’t v. Djamila B.*, 2015-NMSC-003. To reiterate, any policy or  
21 practice of the federal government that would serve to deny or otherwise disrupt any family  
22 member’s ability to take custody of their child relative is an affront to the laws of a sovereign  
23 state and the views of the people therein.  
24  
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1           194. New Mexico’s Children’s Code is structured to promote child safety, recognize  
2 cultural diversity, and to ensure that civil and criminal justice systems are coordinated. NMSA  
3 1978, Section 32A-1-3 (2009). All children are to be provided services sensitive to their cultural  
4 needs. *Id.*; *see also* NMSA 1978, Section 32A-18-1 (2009) (requiring cross-cultural training  
5 for all caregivers and service-providers under the children’s code). Families seeking asylum do  
6 not face allegations of abuse, neglect, or a crime that allows children to be removed from the  
7 custody of their parents under New Mexico law. In New Mexico, the mental and physical  
8 wellbeing of children is paramount. NMSA 1978, Section 32A-1-3(A)(2009). Children removed  
9 from the home in New Mexico because of a parent’s criminal behavior are afforded due process  
10 and representation of counsel in every proceeding other than probation. *State v. Doe*, 1977-  
11 NMCA-234, 91 N.M. 232, 572 P.2d 960, cert. denied 91 N.M. 249, 572 P.2d 1257 (1978). *See*  
12 *also* NMSA 1978, § 32A-1-7. *State ex rel. Children, Youth & Families Dept. v. Lilli L.*, 1996-  
13 NMCA-014, ¶ 14, 121 N.M. 376. “[F]ailure to appoint either counsel or a guardian ad litem to  
14 protect the interests of a minor may constitute a denial of due process, thereby invalidating such  
15 proceedings.”

18           195. The **State of New Jersey** has a longstanding public policy confirming the  
19 importance of family integrity and the primacy of the parent-child relationship. New Jersey law  
20 declares that “the preservation and strengthening of family life is a matter of public concern as  
21 being in the interest of the general welfare.” N.J. Stat. Ann. § 30:4C-1(a). It also includes a  
22 mandate “to make reasonable efforts ... to preserve the family in order to prevent the need for  
23 removing the child” from his or her parents, and to return the child safely to his or her parents if  
24 possible. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 30:4C-11.1. In determining whether removal of a child is required,  
25  
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1 “the health and safety of the child shall be of paramount concern to the court.” N.J. Stat. Ann.  
2 § 30:4C-11.2. Moreover, any proceeding which may result in even a temporary loss of custody  
3 of a child implicates a parent’s state constitutional right to appointed counsel. *In re*  
4 *Guardianship of Dotson*, 72 N.J. 112, 123 (1976).

5  
6 196. New Jersey has also long protected the civil rights and civil liberties of its  
7 residents, including by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, or national  
8 origin. *See, e.g.*, N.J. Stat. Ann. § 10:5-12.

9 197. The **State of Rhode Island** has a longstanding public policy affirming the  
10 importance of family integrity and the primacy of the parent-child relationship. For example,  
11 R.I. Gen. Law § 42-72-2 (1979) declares that “the state has a basic obligation to promote,  
12 safeguard and protect the social well-being and development of the children of the state through  
13 a comprehensive program providing for” such items as “the strengthening of the family unit”  
14 and “making the home safe for children by enhancing the parental capacity for good child care  
15 and services to children and their families to prevent the unnecessary removal of children from  
16 their homes”. *See* R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-72-2 (1979).

17  
18 198. Rhode Island has declared that practices that discriminate against any of its  
19 persons within the state on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, age, or country of  
20 ancestral origin are matters of public concern that threaten the rights and proper privileges of the  
21 State and harm the public welfare, health, and peace of the people. *See*. R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-  
22 112-1 (1990).

23  
24 199. The **State of Vermont** has a fundamental, sovereign interest in the welfare of  
25 children and families. Vermont has the authority and obligation to intervene where children are  
26



1 “without proper parental care or subsistence, education, medical, or other care necessary for  
2 [their] well-being.” 33 V.S.A. § 5102(3)(B). That duty includes bearing “such expenses for the  
3 proper care, maintenance, and education of a child, including the expenses of medical, surgical,  
4 or psychiatric examination or treatment” as deemed necessary in connection with juvenile care  
5 proceedings. 33 V.S.A. § 5116(a). Vermont authorities owe a corollary duty “to preserve the  
6 family and to separate a child from his or her parents only when necessary to protect the child  
7 from serious harm or in the interests of public safety.” 33 V.S.A. § 5101(a)(3).

9 200. Where children require foster care, Vermont strives to ensure their placement in  
10 a healthy, loving environment through strict licensing requirements. *See* 33 V.S.A. § 4905; Vt.  
11 Admin. Code § 12-3-501. The Vermont Department of Children and Families closely regulates  
12 not only the child’s physical environment but also the individuals who may be entrusted to care  
13 for the child. *See* Vt. Admin. Code §§ 12-3-501:20; 12-3-501:40.

15 201. Vermont has long protected its residents from discrimination on the basis of race,  
16 color, and national origin — irrespective of their citizenship status. *See, e.g.*, 9 V.S.A. §§ 4502-  
17 4503 (public accommodations and housing); 21 V.S.A. § 495 (employment); and 13 V.S.A. §  
18 1455 (bias-motivated crimes). Vermont continues to reaffirm this commitment through  
19 legislation. *See, e.g.*, Vermont Act. 5 (S. 79) (March 28, 2017) (“In Vermont, we celebrate the  
20 rich cultural heritage and diversity of our residents. . . . All Vermont residents should be free  
21 from discrimination on the basis of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status,  
22 race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, or disability.”).

24 202. The **State of Minnesota**’s public policy also affirms the importance of family  
25 integrity. For example, Minnesota Statutes section 252.32 declares that it is the State’s policy  
26

1 “that all children are entitled to live in families that offer safe, nurturing, permanent relationships,  
2 and that public services be directed toward preventing the unnecessary separation of children  
3 from their families.” Minn. Stat. § 252.32, subd. 1. In addition, Minnesota Statutes section  
4 260C.001 recognizes the importance of “preserv[ing] and strengthen[ing] the child’s family ties  
5 whenever possible and in the child’s best interests . . . .” Minn. Stat. § 260C.001, subd. 1(b)(3).  
6

7 203. Minnesota has also declared that the State’s public policy is that persons be free  
8 from discrimination in employment, housing and real property, public accommodations, public  
9 services, and education on the basis of, among other things, race, color, creed, or national origin.  
10 Minn. Stat. § 363A.02, subd. 1(a). “Such discrimination threatens the rights and privileges of  
11 the inhabitants of this state and menaces the institutions and foundations of democracy.” *Id.*  
12 subd. 1(b).  
13

14 204. The **State of Iowa** has a longstanding policy that favors the protection of the  
15 family unit. The State of Iowa only separates parents and children in the most exceptional of  
16 circumstances because when we do so we “inflict[] a unique deprivation of a constitutionally  
17 protected liberty interest[.]” *In re M.S.*, 889 N.W.2d 675, 677-78 (Iowa Ct. App. 2016). “An  
18 innocent man can be set free. The landowner can be justly compensated. The childless parent  
19 has no recourse.” *Id.* To that end, Iowa’s child welfare system strives to ensure that every child  
20 receives the care, guidance, and control she needs in her own home, with her own parents,  
21 whenever possible. Iowa Code § 232.1. “[T]he custody, care, and nurture of the child reside  
22 first in the parents” and it is presumed to be in a child’s best interest to remain in parental custody.  
23 *In re M.S.*, 889 N.W.2d 675, 677-78 (Iowa Ct. App. 2016); *In re N.M.*, 528 N.W.2d 94, 96 (Iowa  
24 1995). Under Iowa law, a family cannot be broken up simply upon proof that a parent has  
25  
26

1 “engaged in immoral or illegal conduct[.]” *In re M.S.*, 889 N.W.2d 675, 677-78 (Iowa Ct. App.  
2 2016). “Indeed, due process would be violated if the State ‘attempt[ed] to force the breakup of  
3 a natural family, over the objections of the parents and their children, without some showing of  
4 unfitness’” as a parent. *Id.*

5  
6 205. The State of Iowa prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national  
7 origin, or religion. *See* Iowa Code chapter 216.

8 206. The **State of Illinois** has a longstanding policy recognizing the importance of  
9 maintaining the family relationship.

10 207. The Illinois Juvenile Court Act of 1987, for example, declares that the State  
11 should “secure for each minor subject hereto such care and guidance, preferably in his or her  
12 own home, as will serve the safety and moral, emotional, mental, and physical welfare of the  
13 minor and the best interests of the community; [and] preserve and strengthen the minor’s family  
14 ties whenever possible, removing him or her from the custody of his or her parents only when  
15 his or her safety or welfare or the protection of the public cannot be adequately safeguarded  
16 without removal.” 705 ILCS 405/1-2.

17  
18 208. The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act likewise instructs the  
19 Department of Children and Family Services to “protect the health, safety, and best interests of  
20 the child in all situations in which the child is vulnerable to child abuse or neglect, offer  
21 protective services in order to prevent any further harm to the child and to other children in the  
22 same environment or family, stabilize the home environment, and preserve family life whenever  
23 possible.” 325 ILCS 5/2(a).  
24  
25  
26

1           209. In addition, the State of Illinois has a longstanding policy affirming the  
2 importance of assisting the state's immigrant population.

3           210. The Illinois Attorney General Act declares that "[i]t is imperative that State  
4 government is aware of the needs of the State's immigrant community and sensitive to the  
5 barriers that may prevent them from seeking and obtaining services." 15 ILCS 205/6.6(a). The  
6 Act further directs the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to "assist immigrants by increasing  
7 accessibility to the Office and providing outreach services to the community, which will serve  
8 to educate immigrants as to their rights and responsibilities as residents of the State." *Id.*

9  
10           211. **New York State** has a strong interest in family unity. It is the long-established  
11 policy and practice of the State to prioritize keeping a child with his or her parent or parents.  
12 OCFS operates under the principal that families staying together is the most desired outcome for  
13 children. Children are some of the most vulnerable residents in New York State and they best  
14 develop their unique potential in a caring and healthy family environment with their birth parents  
15 or other relatives. The State's first obligation is to help the family with services to prevent its  
16 break-up, or to quickly reunite the family if the child has already been separated from his parents.  
17 That is because the child's need for a normal family life will usually best be met with his or her  
18 birth parent, and parents are entitled to bring up their own children unless the best interests of  
19 the child would thereby be endangered. N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 384-b(1); N.Y. Exec. Law § 990.

20  
21           212. New York State has a strong interest in promulgating and operating under non-  
22 discriminatory policies. In fact, the legislature has declared that non-discrimination is a guiding  
23 principal of policy in New York State. New York's legislature has found that "the state has the  
24 responsibility to act to assure that every individual within this state is afforded an equal  
25  
26

1 opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life and that the failure to provide such equal  
2 opportunity, whether because of discrimination, prejudice, intolerance or inadequate education,  
3 training, housing or health care not only threatens the rights and proper privileges of its  
4 inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state and threatens  
5 the peace, order, health, safety and general welfare of the state and its inhabitants.” N.Y. Exec.  
6 Law § 290. Thus, it is unlawful to discriminate against any person in New York State on the  
7 basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability,  
8 predisposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status, domestic violence victim  
9 status, gender identity, transgender status, and gender dysphoria. N.Y. Exec. Law § 296; 9 N.Y.  
10 Comp. Codes R. & Regs. Tit. 9 § 466.13(c)(2)-(3).  
11

12  
13 213. This principal of non-discrimination is also applied at the agency level. For  
14 example, OCFS promulgates regulatory standards that expressly prohibit discrimination or  
15 harassment of adults or children involved in child welfare programs and services based on race,  
16 creed, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression,  
17 marital status or disability. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. Tit. 10 §§ 421.6, 423.4, 441.24  
18

19 214. The **State of Maryland** has longstanding policies affirming the importance of  
20 family integrity and of protecting the wellbeing of children to the greatest extent  
21 possible. Maryland’s Legislature has declared that “it is the policy of this State to promote  
22 family stability, [and] to preserve family unity[.]” Md. Code Ann., Fam. Law § 4-  
23 401(1). Maryland’s statute governing custody proceedings for children in need of assistance is  
24 intended to “conserve and strengthen the child’s family ties and to separate a child from the  
25 child’s parents only when necessary for the child’s welfare,” and to “provide for the care,  
26

1 protection, safety, and mental and physical development of” children. Md. Code Ann., Cts. &  
2 Jud. Proc. § 3-802(a)(3), (1). And under state law, various social programs must be administered  
3 to “preserve family unity” or “preserv[e] family integrity.” Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. § 7-  
4 702(b); Code of Md. Regs. 07.02.01.01; Code of Md. Regs. 11.02.13.01.

5  
6 215. Maryland also has a public policy prohibiting discrimination against any of its  
7 inhabitants because of their race, age, color, creed, or national origin, and has enacted anti-  
8 discrimination laws in a wide array of contexts, ranging from public accommodations, *see* Md.  
9 Code Ann., State Gov’t §§ 20-304, to employment, *id.* § 20-602, to residential housing, *id.* § 20-  
10 702. Maryland law also prohibits any person from retaliating against any person because he or  
11 she has exercised or enjoyed the rights granted or protected by Maryland’s anti-discrimination  
12 laws, *id.* § 20-708(2).

13  
14 216. It is the policy of the State of Maryland, “in the exercise of its police power for  
15 the protection of the public safety, public health, and general welfare, for the maintenance of  
16 business and good government, and for the promotion of the State’s trade, commerce, and  
17 manufacturers,” to “assure all people equal opportunity in receiving employment” regardless of  
18 race, color, religion, age, ancestry, or national origin. Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 20-602.

19  
20 217. The **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** has a longstanding public policy  
21 recognizing the significance of family integrity and the parent-child relationship. For example,  
22 Pennsylvania law declares that “[t]he family is the basic institution in society in which our  
23 children’s sense of self-esteem and positive self-image are developed and nurtured” and that  
24 “[t]hese feelings and values are essential to a healthy, productive and independent life during  
25 adulthood.” 62 P.S. § 2172(a)(1). Similarly, Pennsylvania’s Domestic Relations Act states that  
26

1 “[t]he family is the basic unit in society and the protection and preservation of the family is of  
2 paramount public concern.” 23 Pa.C.S. § 3102(a).

3         218. Pennsylvania law further recognizes that children who are separated from their  
4 parents are deprived “of the unique bond which exists in the parent-child relationship, leaving  
5 emotional scars on such children which may never fully heal” because “children are better off  
6 emotionally when their needs can be met by their biological parents.” 62 P.S. § 2172(a). This  
7 reality is recognized throughout Pennsylvania law. For instance, the Commonwealth’s Juvenile  
8 Act seeks to “preserve the unity of the family whenever possible” and to separate “the child  
9 from parents only when necessary for his welfare, safety or health or in the interests of public  
10 safety.” 42 Pa.C.S. § 6301(b).

11         219. To separate a child from her family is among the most intrusive acts that the  
12 government can initiate. North Carolina has long committed itself to separating families only as  
13 a last resort, and only after exhausting other options, and taking all appropriate measures to  
14 ensure the safety of children. In North Carolina, protection of the family unit is guaranteed not  
15 only by the U.S. Constitution but also by North Carolina law. *Adams v. Tessner*, 354 N.C. 57,  
16 60 (N.C. 2001). As a result, taking a child away from its parent requires “a showing that the  
17 parent is unfit to have custody.” *Id.* at 62.

18         220. Parents of children in North Carolina have due process rights that require  
19 “reasonable efforts [to be] made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child” from  
20 her parents, but only to allow removal when “necessary to protect the safety and health of the  
21 child.” *In re Dula*, 143 N.C. App. 16, 17 (N.C. Ct. App. 2001). A parent’s “right to retain  
22 custody of their child and to determine the care and supervision suitable for their child is a  
23  
24  
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1 fundamental liberty interest which warrants due process protection.” *In re Montgomery*, 311  
2 N.C. 101, 106 (N.C. 1984).

3         221. The people of North Carolina, in their Declaration of Rights, have stated that  
4 “[n]o person . . . shall be subjected to discrimination by the State because of race, color, religion,  
5 or national origin.” N.C. Const. Art. I, § 19. The State of North Carolina reiterates this  
6 commitment in numerous statutes that make it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of, *inter*  
7 *alia*, race, color, religion, or national origin. *See, e.g.*, N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 75B-2, 41A-4, 95-151,  
8 126-16, 143-422.2.

9  
10         222. In the **State of Delaware**, “parents have the primary responsibility for meeting  
11 the needs of their children and the State has an obligation to help them discharge this  
12 responsibility . . .” 29 *Del. C.* § 9001. Delaware law explicitly declares that “the State has a  
13 basic obligation to promote family stability and preserve the family as a unit...” *Id.* Delaware  
14 law also recognizes that preservation of the family as a unit is “fundamental to the maintenance  
15 of a stable, democratic society.” 10 *Del. C.* § 902(a). To that end, the state has directed its  
16 courts, when possible consistent with the safety of family members, to ensure that homes  
17 “remain unbroken.” *Id.* The express statutory child welfare policy of the State is to “serve to  
18 advance the interests and secure the safety of the child, while preserving the family unit  
19 whenever the safety of the child is not jeopardized.” 16 *Del. C.* § 901.

20  
21         223. The State of Delaware has comprehensively prohibited discrimination based on  
22 race and national origin in its laws, including the areas of public accommodations (6 *Del. C.* §  
23 4501, housing (6 *Del. C.* § 4601), and employment (19 *Del. C.* § 711). While children forcibly  
24 separated from their parents pursuant to the Trump Administration’s policy are not presently  
25  
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1 located within any facility within the State of Delaware, a business entity that has facilitated such  
2 placements has a business location within the State of Delaware. Upon information and belief,  
3 this entity has assisted in placing children forcibly separated from their parents in other co-  
4 plaintiff States. Should separated children ultimately be placed within Delaware, its education  
5 and child welfare systems may be saddled with unanticipated fiscal and operational burdens due  
6 to the need to provide care for children who have been psychologically traumatized by  
7 involuntary separation from their parents. In order to ensure a complete injunction, to eliminate  
8 the chilling effect on the exercise of the fundamental rights of documented and undocumented  
9 immigrants presently residing in the State of Delaware, to protect the sovereignty of the State of  
10 Delaware by protecting its obligation to assist parents in meeting the needs of children, and to  
11 maintain the appropriate licensure and supervision of childcare facilities within the State,  
12 Delaware joins this action.

15 224. The **District of Columbia** is uniquely situated among the Plaintiff States, as it  
16 has no sovereign interest to claim as against the Federal Government. *See* Const. art. I, § 8, cl.  
17 17; *N. Pipeline Constr. Co. v. Marathon Pipe Line Co.*, 458 U.S. 50, 76 (1982); *District of*  
18 *Columbia ex rel. Am. Combustion, Inc. v. Transamerica Ins. Co.*, 797 F.2d 1041, 1046 (D.C.  
19 Cir. 1986) (Congress acts “as sovereign of the District of Columbia”). Rather, the District asserts  
20 its quasi-sovereign interests and its authority to enforce its laws and uphold the public interest  
21 under its Attorney General Act, which was intended to incorporate the common law authority of  
22 states’ attorneys general. D.C. Code. § 1-301.81. *See also Alfred L. Snapp & Son, Inc. v. Puerto*  
23 *Rico ex rel. Barez*, 458 U.S. 592, 608 n.15 (1982) (recognizing that Puerto Rico “has a claim to  
24 represent its quasi-sovereign interests in federal court at least as strong as that of any State”).  
25  
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1     **K.     Defendants’ Policy Harms the States’ Proprietary Interests**

2             225.     The Policy also harms the States’ proprietary interests. ORR places thousands of  
3     unaccompanied minors with sponsors (adults who can care for the child during the pendency of  
4     immigration proceedings) in the States every year. In FY 2016, ORR placed 52,147 individual  
5     children in such placements nationwide. In FY 2017, there were 42,497 placements, and so far  
6     there have been almost 20,000 in FY 2018 (October-April). *See Unaccompanied Alien Children*  
7     *Released to Sponsors by State* (June 30, 2017) *available at*  
8     [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state)  
9     [state](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state), attached hereto as Ex 88. These ORR data are inclusive of children who were separated  
10    as a result of the Policy.  
11

12             226.     The States are receiving and will continue to receive an increasing number of  
13    separated immigrant parents and children if Defendants are allowed to continue implementing  
14    their Policy. The federal government’s separation of these families and transfer of separated  
15    persons into the States places increased burdens on state resources, particularly because of the  
16    acute trauma that children and parents have experienced due to Defendants’ unlawful policy.  
17    Children who have been separated from their parents and are awaiting immigration proceedings  
18    (for example the adjudication of an asylum application or adjustment of status) are entitled to  
19    access a variety of state-funded programs. Providing the necessary services to address the legal,  
20    educational, physical, and psychological needs of parents and children who have been separated  
21    will burden the state systems. The following are non-exclusive examples of state systems that  
22    are impacted.  
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1           227.   **Courts.** Many of the sponsors of these children will need to obtain guardianship  
2 through the States’ juvenile and family courts. This is not discretionary: ORR’s agreement with  
3 sponsors requires “best efforts” to establish such guardianships, and sponsors in many states  
4 would be unable to access medical and educational records and make important decisions for the  
5 children in their care without such court-ordered guardianships. *See* Sponsor Care Agreement  
6 *available* *at*  
7 [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/frp\\_4\\_sponsor\\_care\\_agreement\\_05\\_14\\_18.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/frp_4_sponsor_care_agreement_05_14_18.pdf),  
8 and attached hereto as Ex. 89.  
9

10           228.   Children who have been separated from their parents will also access the State  
11 courts to obtain orders necessary for their immigration proceedings. For example, some such  
12 children are eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), pursuant to federal law. *See*  
13 Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) §203(b)(4); INA §101(a)(27)(j); Trafficking Victims  
14 Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA), P.L. 110-457 §235. In these proceedings, the  
15 federal immigration system relies on the expertise of state courts in making determinations  
16 regarding a child’s welfare, requiring SIJS-eligible children to seek SIJS predicate findings from  
17 a state’s juvenile court.  
18

19           229.   **Education.** Public elementary and secondary schools have a constitutional  
20 obligation to educate students irrespective of immigration status. *See Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S.  
21 202 (1982), and various statutory obligations to provide particularized services to high needs  
22 students, such as through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Children  
23 separated from their parents and placed with sponsors will attend the States’ public schools and  
24 receive a variety of educational services, including special education, ESL programs, mental  
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1 health services, and other programs delivered within the school district. Such programs are  
2 funded in large part through local levy funds and state dollars. Indeed, state funding for general  
3 education delivered in public schools is calculated in part on a per-student basis.

4  
5 230. The trauma of forcible separation from a parent renders public schooling more  
6 difficult and expensive for the States to provide. Research shows that the experience of trauma  
7 may severely undercut a child's ability to learn and function in the classroom. *See* Helping  
8 Traumatized Children Learn, available at [https://traumasensitiveschools.org/wp-](https://traumasensitiveschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Helping-Traumatized-Children-Learn.pdf)  
9 [content/uploads/2013/06/Helping-Traumatized-Children-Learn.pdf](https://traumasensitiveschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Helping-Traumatized-Children-Learn.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 90.  
10 Children may require additional mental health services through school guidance counselors and  
11 social workers; they may have behavioral problems and trauma-related learning disabilities that  
12 would need to be addressed; and they lack the critically important educational advocacy and  
13 partnership that parents can provide. Students without parents to care for them are also more  
14 likely to arrive at school with housing and food insecurity and require additional attention and  
15 resources to address hunger, exhaustion, and increased levels of stress and anxiety.

16  
17 231. **Healthcare.** Such children are also often eligible for State-funded healthcare  
18 programs, including mental health care treatment. Health care costs will be exacerbated for the  
19 states because of the Policy, as children who suffer prolonged and unexpected separation from  
20 their parents experience particular health effects, including higher levels of anxiety, more  
21 susceptibility to physical and emotional illness, and decreased capacity to manage their  
22 emotions. These health effects may result in higher levels of care and increase costs to the state.  
23 *See* Burke and Mendoza, *At Least 3 tender age shelters set up for child migrants*, the AP (June  
24  
25  
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20, 2018) available at <https://apnews.com/dc0c9a5134d14862ba7c7ad9a811160e>, attached hereto as Ex. 91.

232. **Other programs.** Many States also have programs that provide services specifically directed at helping immigrants and refugees, as well as programs designed to address the consequences of trauma. Some have limited available group care facilities that they stand to lose to ORR placements because of the increase in separated families.

233. The plaintiff States are already experiencing some of these proprietary harms.

234. **Washington.** For example, ORR places hundreds of unaccompanied minors with sponsors in the state of Washington every year. For FY 2017, the last year for which complete data are available, ORR placed almost 500 children with Washington resident sponsors. As of April 30, 2018, ORR's available data show that Washington has already received 278 unaccompanied children during this fiscal year. See <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state>. See Ex. 88.

235. Washington has almost 300 public school districts and serves well over a million children. Per pupil expenditures for 2016-17, for example, were more than \$11,800 per child. Of this total, slightly more than 90% of school funding came from state and local resources. See Statewide Average Financial Tables and Charts available at <http://k12.wa.us/safs/PUB/FIN/1617/1617Section1Full.pdf>, attached hereto as Ex. 92. For the 2017-19 biennium, state spending for basic education will total over \$22 billion, with over \$16 billion allocated to basic general education services.

1           236. Washington State children residing in households with an income less than 312  
2 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for the Apple Health program, regardless of  
3 citizenship and/or documented status. Qualifying children receive access to the full scope of  
4 health care coverage including medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, hearing and  
5 pharmaceutical benefits. Of the \$7.3 billion that Washington state spent in state fiscal year 2017  
6 to support the entire Apple Health program, the cost to cover minor children was \$1.6 billion. In  
7 state fiscal year 2017, the cost to cover undocumented immigrant children was \$31 million. The  
8 average cost per undocumented child in state fiscal year 2017 was \$1,552 per year.

10           237. Washington's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) is part of the  
11 State of Washington, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). ORIA coordinates and  
12 facilitates the provision of services for people who are refugees and immigrants to enable them to  
13 achieve economic stability and integrate into Washington communities. To do this, ORIA braids  
14 federal funding from the ORR with other federal and state dollars, for a total annual budget of  
15 \$27,925,874. This funding provides services to more than 10,000 refugees and immigrants each  
16 year through contracts with more than 60 different organizations across the state to offer 11 distinct  
17 programs and services. National immigration policies affect the state's access to federal funding.  
18 For example, around August of 2014, the nation experienced an influx of unaccompanied  
19 immigrant children being apprehended by immigration officials, and ORR reduced  
20 Washington's federal funding to provide refugee social services to cover an increase in costs at  
21 the national level.

24           238. **Massachusetts.** Since 2014, ORR has placed 3,803 unaccompanied children  
25 with sponsors in Massachusetts. *See* Ex. 88. These numbers are particularly high in part because  
26

1 of Massachusetts' large population of residents from which UACs most often come (Honduras,  
2 Guatemala, and El Salvador, in particular). *See* Office of Refugee Resettlement Facts & Data,  
3 available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/about/ucs/facts-and-data>, attached hereto as Ex. 93. For  
4 example, Massachusetts has the eighth largest Salvadoran population in the country. *See* Profiles  
5 of Boston's Latinos available at [http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/e0019487-138b-  
6 4c73-8fe5-fbbd849a7fba](http://www.bostonplans.org/getattachment/e0019487-138b-4c73-8fe5-fbbd849a7fba), attached hereto as Ex. 94. These residents are more likely than the  
7 general population to become sponsors of UACs because sponsors are often family members.  
8

9 239. A non-profit foster care agency in Massachusetts, which is licensed by the  
10 Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, also provides long term foster care  
11 services to UACs in Massachusetts foster homes. *See* Office of Refugee Resettlement Division  
12 of Children Services Legal Resource Guide – Legal Service Provider List for UAC in ORR Case,  
13 available at  
14 [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/legal\\_service\\_provider\\_list\\_for\\_uac\\_in\\_orr\\_care  
15 \\_english\\_092016.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/legal_service_provider_list_for_uac_in_orr_care_english_092016.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 95.  
16

17 240. In Massachusetts, all children regardless of immigration status are entitled to a  
18 free public education. On average, per pupil expenditures amount to more than \$16,000. *See*  
19 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education School Finance Statistical  
20 Comparisons FY13-FY17 Per Pupil Expenditures All Funds, available at  
21 <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/statistics/ppx13-17.html>, attached hereto as Ex. 96. Of this  
22 total, over 95 percent comes from state and local funding resources, with 39 percent from the  
23 state alone. *See* [https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/econ/school-finances/secondary-  
24 education-finance.html](https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/econ/school-finances/secondary-education-finance.html). In Massachusetts' Gateway Cities, where a higher population of  
25  
26

1 immigrants live, state funding amounts to an even higher percent of total per pupil spending.  
2 See <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70/chapter-17.html>. For Fiscal Year 2017, state  
3 spending on education programs totaled more than \$7 billion. See  
4 <http://massbudget.org/browser/index.php>.

5  
6 241. All undocumented children in Massachusetts are eligible for state-funded health  
7 insurance through the Children’s Medical Security Plan, MassHealth Limited, or the Health  
8 Safety Net. Immigrant children with SIJS and other statuses may be eligible for more robust  
9 state-funded health insurance. See *Understanding the Affordable Care Act: Non-Citizens’*  
10 *Eligibility for Mass Health & Other Subsidized Health Benefits* (March 2018) *available at*  
11 [https://www.masslegalservices.org/system/files/library/Understanding%20eligibility%20of%20](https://www.masslegalservices.org/system/files/library/Understanding%20eligibility%20of%20non-citizens_0.pdf)  
12 [non-citizens\\_0.pdf](https://www.masslegalservices.org/system/files/library/Understanding%20eligibility%20of%20non-citizens_0.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 97.

13  
14 242. Children separated from their parents pursuant to the Policy will require  
15 determinations from the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court or Juvenile Court for purposes  
16 of SIJS, *see Recinos v. Escobar*, 473 Mass. 734 (2016), and determinations about guardianship  
17 in the best interests of children. Mass. Gen. Laws c. 190B, § 5-206.

18  
19 243. Undocumented children and other immigrant children who are not eligible for  
20 mental health services through state-funded health insurance programs may qualify for mental  
21 health services through the state’s Department of Mental Health (“DMH”). Under its statutory  
22 mandate, DMH provides or arranges for the provision of services to residents who meet certain  
23 clinical criteria. Mass. Gen. Laws c. 19 § 1. For Massachusetts youth to meet DMH’s clinical  
24 criteria, they must have a “serious emotional disturbance...that has lasted or is expected to last  
25 at least one year [and] has resulted in functional impairment that substantially interferes with or  
26



1 limits the child's [or] adolescent's role or functioning in family, school or community  
2 activities....". 104 CMR 20.04(2)(b). Many if not all children separated from their parents under  
3 the Policy may suffer from such disturbances.

4  
5 244. **Oregon.** Defendants' Policy also harms Oregon's proprietary interests, because  
6 it forces Oregon to expend resources and incur costs that would otherwise not be required. For  
7 example, unaccompanied minors detained in Oregon have often suffered severe trauma in their  
8 home countries. Children separated from their parents under this Policy have suffered additional  
9 trauma from Defendants' actions. Counsel for these minors can and do file petitions with the  
10 juvenile court departments of the Oregon Circuit Courts on their behalf to obtain Special  
11 Immigrant Juvenile status. This allows the court to transfer custody to the Oregon Department  
12 of Human Services, where they can be placed in foster care and receive other necessary services,  
13 such as healthcare, education, and other support. This process employs the financial and other  
14 resources of the state of Oregon.  
15

16 245. Children in Oregon, including those separated from parents, are entitled to a  
17 public education. The cost of that education as of 2016-17 was \$11,715 per student, with 92%  
18 from state and local resources.

19 246. Children in Oregon, including those separated from parents, may be eligible for  
20 health care funded in part by the state of Oregon. Children separated from parents who may  
21 become wards of the state due to forced separation would become eligible for state-funded  
22 healthcare at a cost of approximately \$664 per-member per-month. Federal reimbursement is  
23 not available for healthcare recipients in this population due to their immigration status. Some  
24 children may not become wards of the state and would not have access to any state-funded  
25  
26

1 healthcare. The average cost of hospitalization for a child in Oregon is \$9,370. Oregon bears  
2 the entire cost of providing healthcare and/or emergency-related care to children separated from  
3 their families.

4         247. **California.** ORR places more unaccompanied minors with resident sponsors in  
5 California than any other State in the country. For FY 2017, ORR placed 6,268 children with  
6 California resident sponsors. As of April 30, 2018, California has already received 2,807  
7 unaccompanied children during this fiscal year. *See* Ex. 88.

8         248. In California, any child, including children who have been separated from their  
9 parents, is entitled to a free public education. Per pupil expenditures in 2017-18 exceeded  
10 \$14,000 per child from all fund sources. Of this total, over 91% came from state and local  
11 resources. California has also dedicated educational funds to meeting the needs of  
12 unaccompanied immigrant children.

13         249. In California, undocumented children receive healthcare coverage paid for  
14 entirely by the State. *See* Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14007.8. These children are also eligible  
15 for and benefit from other state funded public health programs.

16         250. Children separated from their parents because of the Policy may require  
17 determinations by California courts in order to obtain a guardianship or a predicate order  
18 enabling the child to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status. *See* Cal. Prob. Code § 1514;  
19 Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 155.

20         251. The federal government has already placed a number of children separated from  
21 their parents pursuant to the Policy at nonprofit facilities in California, including facilities that  
22 also serve children in the State child welfare system. In California, both state and county  
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1 personnel license and approve homes and facilities for the placement of vulnerable children.  
2 Community Care Licensing (CCL) is the division within the California Department of Social  
3 Services that has regulatory oversight of the residential facilities for children in California, and  
4 is responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of children in out-of-home care facilities,  
5 including those facilities who have contacts with ORR to house unaccompanied immigrant  
6 children in California. In its role, CCL has three main functions: prevention, compliance, and  
7 enforcement.  
8

9         252. California's Refugee Programs Bureau is part of the Immigration and Refugee  
10 Programs Branch of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This Bureau  
11 provides assistance to newly arrived refugees to support long term social and economic  
12 integration. In FY 2017, at least 12,058 refugees arrived in the state of California, and received  
13 assistance from the State in the form of nutrition aid, cash assistance, employment services,  
14 immigration legal services, medical services, and educational support. The Bureau administers  
15 the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program, the Refugee School Impact Grant (RSIG),  
16 and the California Newcomer Education and Well-Being (CalNEW), three programs exclusively  
17 for minors. The URM provides foster care, case management, mental health, and medical  
18 services to certain unaccompanied minors. Through RSIG and CalNEW, the RPB funds  
19 programs in schools to provide supplementary educational and social adjustment support  
20 services including academic, English-language acquisition, and mental and well-being supports.  
21 The CalNEW is funded exclusively by the State. Combined, these programs help ensure that  
22 immigrants coming to California are prepared to be full participants in California society and  
23 culture, and that they are able to thrive in their new surroundings.  
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1           253. California's Immigration Services Unit is also a part of the Immigration and  
2 Refugee Programs Branch of the CDSS. The California Legislature has authorized this program  
3 to provide assistance to "persons residing in, or formerly residing in, California," including  
4 "[s]ervices to obtain . . . immigration remedies." Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 13303(b)(1)(B). The  
5 program awards funding to California-based legal services organizations to assist in the  
6 representation of undocumented immigrants in their immigration proceedings, including  
7 targeted funding for unaccompanied undocumented minors present in California after release  
8 from the care and custody of ORR pursuant to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 13300. The State has  
9 invested \$12,000,000 in services for unaccompanied minors since State FY 2014-2015. Legal  
10 services providers have provided representation to 2,147 minors.  
11

12           254. **New Jersey.** ORR released a total of 2,268 Unaccompanied Children (UAC) to  
13 sponsors in New Jersey in FY 2017 (October 2016 – September 2017), and an additional 1,053  
14 between           October           2017           and           April           2018.           *See*  
15 [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state)  
16 [state.](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state) This is more than any other state except Virginia, Texas, New York, Maryland, Florida  
17 and California.  
18

19           255. **Rhode Island.** In Rhode Island, all children regardless of immigration status are  
20 entitled to free public education. Rhode Island has over 300 public schools that serve over  
21 142,000 children. Per-pupil expenditures for 2013-14 were more than \$15,000 per child. The  
22 majority of these funds come from state and local funding resources. As forcible separation from  
23 a parent renders public schooling more difficult and expensive for Rhode Island, Rhode Island  
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1 will experience harm. *See* InfoWorks! Rhode Island Education Data Reporting, Rhode Island  
2 Public Schools, available at <http://infoworks.ride.ri.gov/state/ri>.

3       256. **Vermont.** In Vermont, all children, regardless of immigration status, are entitled  
4 to a free public education. On average, Vermont spends over \$18,000 per pupil each year. *See*  
5 Vermont Agency of Education, *Per Pupil Spending: FY 2017 Report* (2018), available at  
6 <http://education.vermont.gov/documents/data-per-pupil-spending-fy2017>, attached hereto as  
7 Ex. 98.  
8

9       257. Many immigrant children are also eligible to receive free or low-cost health care  
10 through Vermont's children's health insurance program, known as Dr. Dynasaur. *See generally*  
11 Vt. Health Benefits Eligibility and Enrollment Rules §§ 2.03(b), 7.02(b), 7.03(a)(3), 17.02,  
12 17.03, available at [http://humanservices.vermont.gov/on-line-rules/hbee/hbee-all-parts-1-8-](http://humanservices.vermont.gov/on-line-rules/hbee/hbee-all-parts-1-8-adopted-with-toc.pdf)  
13 [adopted-with-toc.pdf](http://humanservices.vermont.gov/on-line-rules/hbee/hbee-all-parts-1-8-adopted-with-toc.pdf). The program includes mental health services, which may face increased  
14 demand in cases of family separation.  
15

16       258. Since 2014, ORR has placed four unaccompanied minors in Vermont. *See* Ex.  
17 88. However, the Policy has seen increasingly large numbers of children scattered across the  
18 nation, often in conditions of secrecy. *See* Exs. 23 & 25.

19       259. Vermont's responsibility to protect the welfare of all children living in the State  
20 includes those children who are separated from their parents and moved to Vermont pursuant to  
21 the Policy. That responsibility includes, when appropriate, commencing juvenile judicial  
22 proceedings and incurring significant costs to ensure that children are receiving safe and  
23 adequate care. *See generally* 33 V.S.A. §§ 5102, 5103, and 5116.  
24  
25  
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1           260. The Policy's negative impact upon immigrants also threatens Vermont's  
2 economic interests. For example, in 2014, immigrant households paid \$57.9 million in state and  
3 local taxes. Of that amount, undocumented immigrants paid an estimated \$2.9 million in state  
4 and local taxes that year. Immigrants also greatly contributed to the economy with over \$462.5  
5 million in spending power. *See The Contributions of New Americans in Vermont*, New  
6 American Economy (2016), available at [https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/the-](https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-vermont/)  
7 [contributions-of-new-americans-in-vermont/](https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/the-contributions-of-new-americans-in-vermont/), attached hereto as Ex. 99. *Undocumented*  
8 *Immigrants' State & Local Tax Contributions*, Institute of Tax and Public Policy (2017),  
9 available at <https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-state-local-tax-contributions-2/>, attached  
10 hereto as Ex. 100.

11  
12           261. **Minnesota.** For FY 2017, the last year for which complete data are available,  
13 ORR placed over 300 children with Minnesota resident sponsors. As of April 30, 2018, ORR's  
14 available data show that Minnesota has already received 164 unaccompanied children during  
15 this fiscal year. *See* Ex. 88.

16  
17           262. In Minnesota, any child, including children who have been separated from their  
18 parents, is eligible to a free public education. On average, per pupil expenditures for the current  
19 fiscal year is \$12,251 per child. Of this total, approximately 96% comes from state and local  
20 resources. If, as may be expected, an immigrant child requires services through the English  
21 Learners program, the state funds an additional \$700 or \$950 per child. Children in Minnesota  
22 may also require special education, mental health services, and other programs delivered within  
23 the school district. Unaccompanied children, including those who are separated from their  
24 parents, may also receive child care assistance in certain settings.  
25  
26

1           263. In addition, unaccompanied children residing in Minnesota, including those who  
2 are separated from their parents, are also eligible to receive health care through Minnesota's  
3 Emergency Medical Assistance program and support through the Women, Infants, and Children  
4 program. They may also receive services through the state's child protection system.

5  
6           264. Unaccompanied children in Minnesota, including those who are separated from  
7 their parents, may also be involved in state court proceedings related to the unaccompanied  
8 child's immigration status or the child's sponsor's legal authority.

9           265. **Iowa.** Likewise, since 2014, ORR has placed 980 unaccompanied children with  
10 sponsors in Iowa. *See* Ex. 93.

11           266. In Iowa, all children regardless of immigration status are entitled to a free public  
12 education. On average, per pupil expenditures amounted to nearly \$13,000 in federal FY2015.  
13 *See* Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year  
14 2014-15 (Fiscal Year 2015) available at <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018301.pdf>, attached  
15 hereto as Ex. 101. Of this total, 93% came from state and local funding sources, with 53%  
16 coming from the state alone. *Id.*

17  
18           267. **Illinois.** Illinois's commitment to supporting its immigrant communities is also  
19 evidenced by certain state expenditures.

20  
21           268. In FY 2018, for example, the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) was  
22 appropriated approximately \$13,779,400 for various refugee and immigration services. These  
23 funds came from General Revenue Funds and other state funds. *See* Pub. Act 100-21, at 15, 450  
24 (2017), available at <http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/PDF/100-0021.pdf>, attached  
25 hereto as Ex. 102. In FY 2019, DHS, the Illinois Office of the Secretary of State, and the Illinois  
26

1 Department of Public Health were appropriated approximately \$37,477,900 for various refugee  
2 and immigration services. *See* Pub. Act 100-586, at 335, 343–44, 402–03, 433 (2018), *available*  
3 *at* <http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/PDF/100-0586.pdf>, attached hereto as Ex. 103.

4  
5 269. Services provided by DHS through the Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant  
6 Services include helping newly arrived refugees achieve self-sufficiency in the United States  
7 and providing outreach and interpretation services to low-income and limited English-proficient  
8 individuals requiring supportive services.” *See Refugee & Immigrant Services*, ILL. DEP’T OF  
9 HUMAN SERVS., *available at* <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30363> (last visited June  
10 22, 2018), and attached hereto as Ex. 104.

11  
12 270. Similarly, within the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
13 (DCFS) exists the Office of the DCFS Guardian. This Guardian serves as the legal parent of  
14 every child in the custody of DCFS, “monitor[ing] and mak[ing] critical decisions based on the  
15 child’s best interests regarding major medical treatment, ... and all other decisions requiring  
16 parental consent.” *See* ILL. DEP’T OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVS., BUDGET BRIEFING FY 2019,  
17 at 34 (2018), [https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/newsandreports/Documents/FY19\\_Budget](https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/newsandreports/Documents/FY19_Budget_Briefing.pdf)  
18 [Briefing.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/newsandreports/Documents/FY19_Budget_Briefing.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 105. To that end, the DCFS Guardian, with assistance from  
19 the DCFS Special Counsel and the Immigration Services Unit, acquires adjustment of legal  
20 status for foreign-born youth who are under its guardianship. *Id.*

21  
22 271. Children reunited with a family member residing in Illinois will likely be entitled  
23 to access certain state-funded programs. This is also true for children currently sheltered outside  
24 of Illinois who are later reunited with a family member residing in Illinois.



1           272. For example, every child residing in Illinois, including children who have been  
2 separated from their parents, is entitled to a free public education. In school year 2015–16,  
3 Illinois per-pupil expenditures exceed \$12,900 per child. Of this total, over 92% comes from  
4 state and local resources. *See* ILL. STATE BD. OF EDUC., ILLINOIS STATE REPORT CARD 3 (2017),  
5 [http://webprod.isbe.net/ereportcard/publicsite/getReport.aspx?year=2017&code=2017StateRep](http://webprod.isbe.net/ereportcard/publicsite/getReport.aspx?year=2017&code=2017StateReport E.pdf)  
6 [ort E.pdf](http://webprod.isbe.net/ereportcard/publicsite/getReport.aspx?year=2017&code=2017StateReport E.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 106.

8           273. Moreover, separated children enrolled in Illinois schools may receive bilingual  
9 support services through Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) Programs and/or Transitional  
10 Programs of Instruction (TPI). These programs help English Learners achieve academically,  
11 and provide classroom and other forms of support. In FY 2018 and FY 2019, Illinois  
12 appropriated approximately \$65,540,700 and \$48,600,000, respectively to support bilingual  
13 education programs in Illinois school districts. *See* Pub. Act 100-21, at 636–37 (Ex. 102); Pub.  
14 Act 100-586, at 491 (Ex. 104). Currently, Illinois school districts receive funding on a per-pupil  
15 allocation by level of service ranging from \$304–758 per pupil. *See* ILL. STATE BD. OF EDUC.,  
16 FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET 14, 58 (2017), *available at*  
17 <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/fy2018-budget-book.pdf>, attached hereto as Ex. 107. Children  
18 who are reunited with family members located in Illinois who attend Illinois schools are likely  
19 to receive such services as English Learners.

22           274. As well, each child who qualifies is entitled to receive free breakfast and lunch  
23 pursuant to the Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Program, 105 ILCS 125/1. Through this  
24 program, the Illinois State Board of Education reimburses all public schools, nonprofit private  
25 schools, and residential child care institutions that provided breakfast and lunch to children who  
26

1 meet the income-level guidelines. In FY 2018 and FY 2019, the Board of Education received  
2 \$9,000,000 in state funding to provide reimbursements. *See* Pub. Act 100-21, at 435, 634–35  
3 (Ex. 102); *See* Pub. Act. 100-587, at 39, 450 (2018), *available at*  
4 <http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/PDF/100-0587.pdf>, attached hereto as Ex. 108.  
5 Heartland Alliance is a participant in the Free Lunch and Breakfast Program and receives  
6 reimbursement from the State of Illinois for breakfasts and lunches provided to unaccompanied  
7 children in Illinois.

9 275. Separated children may also be eligible for healthcare programs that are partially  
10 or fully funded by the State of Illinois, including Medicaid. In FY 2014, for example, Illinois  
11 spent an average of approximately \$2,108 per Medicaid-eligible child. *See* Medicaid Spending  
12 Per Enrollee (Full or Partial Benefit), KAISER FAMILY FOUND.,  
13 <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/medicaid-spending-per-enrollee/> (last visited June  
14 22, 2018).

16 276. In addition, children who have been separated from their parents may access state  
17 courts in Illinois in order to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). In order to petition  
18 the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services for a SIJS, a child must first obtain an order from a  
19 state court finding that it is not in the child’s best interests to return to her home country or to  
20 the country she last lived in, and that the child cannot be reunited with a parent because of abuse,  
21 abandonment, or neglect. As additional children are brought to Illinois as a result of Defendants’  
22 child separation policy, Illinois courts will see an increase in the number of orders being sought.

24 277. **New York.** In FY 2017, ORR placed 3,938 children with New York resident  
25 sponsors. ORR placed another 1,577 UACs with New York resident sponsors from October 2017  
26

1 through April 30, 2018. *See* Unaccompanied Alien Children Released to Sponsors by State,  
2 available at Ex. 88.

3       278. Once a UAC is placed with a sponsor who resides in New York State, the child  
4 is entitled to a variety of services funded by the state, including educational services, early  
5 intervention services, and access to healthcare, among others. New York State makes these  
6 services available to such children in support of the State's interest in ensuring the health, safety,  
7 and well-being of all residents.

8  
9       279. New York State will incur expenses to educate UACs placed within the state  
10 because under state law, children ages six through sixteen who reside in New York must attend  
11 school and are entitled to attend school up until age twenty-one. Moreover, the IDEA requires  
12 the state to provide special education services to students with learning or emotional disabilities.  
13 Under this federal law, children aged three to twenty-one are entitled to special education  
14 services when clinically warranted. 20 U.S.C. § 1411. New York State law also entitles  
15 qualified students to English Language Learner (ELL) services. N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs.  
16 Tit. 8, § 154. There are 692 public school districts in New York that serve approximately 2.6  
17 million students. While costs will vary depending on the school district's location and the child's  
18 needs, the statewide average to educate a student in New York is approximately \$22,000 per  
19 year.  
20

21  
22       280. New York State also provides a robust early intervention program which UACs  
23 utilize when placed in New York State communities. The Part C Early Intervention Program  
24 (EIP) was created by Congress in 1986 as part of the IDEA. The IDEA authorizes the  
25 discretionary EIP for infants and toddlers with disabilities and requires states to provide a free  
26

1 appropriate education for all students with disabilities, ages three to twenty-one. 20 U.S.C. §§  
2 1411, 1419. Each year, New York's EIP serves over 60,000 children ages zero to three who have  
3 moderate to severe developmental delays. The EIP includes 1,279 providers that contract with  
4 New York State to bill for EI services. Total annual expenditures for New York's EIP total more  
5 than \$644 million across all payers—45% is covered by Medicaid, 2% by commercial insurance,  
6 26% by state funds, and 27% by county funds. While EIP costs and services vary based on the  
7 child's needs and the intensity of services offered, for the 2017 program year the average cost of  
8 services delivered ranged from \$5,820 to \$22,000 per child.  
9

10 281. New York State also incurs significant medical expenses for each UAC placed in  
11 state. UACs who are placed with sponsors in the community are eligible to enroll in the  
12 Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) operated by New York's Office of Health  
13 Insurance Programs. The yearly cost of CHIP per child is \$2,607.36 and is financed exclusively  
14 by New York State.  
15

16 282. An influx of UACs also carries with it increased costs for the New York State  
17 child welfare system. After a UAC is placed with a sponsor in the community, that placement  
18 may be disrupted for a number of reasons. If the child becomes at risk of entering foster care—  
19 for example, because of allegations of abuse or neglect by the person now legally responsible  
20 for the child—the child welfare system will provide preventive services to attempt to keep the  
21 child safely in the new home; such services are funded, in part, by New York State. If those  
22 services are unsuccessful and the child must be removed from the new home, New York State  
23 will also partly fund the child's placement and needed services while in the foster system.  
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1           283.   **Maryland.** For FY 2017, the last year for which complete data are available,  
2   ORR placed almost 3,000 children with Maryland resident sponsors—the fifth most of any state.  
3   As of April 30, 2018, ORR’s available data show that Maryland has already received 901  
4   unaccompanied children during this fiscal year. *See* Ex. 88. Maryland is one of the states that is  
5   receiving children separated from their parents under the Trump Administration’s “zero  
6   tolerance” policy. *See* Theresa Vargas, “*I will kiss their boo-boos*” *Foster Families provide*  
7   *small comforts* (June 22, 2018), attached hereto as Ex. 109; *I really miss my mom: What becomes*  
8   *of a 5-year-old in Maryland and the other separated children now?*, The Washington Post (June  
9   21, 2018) available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/i-really-miss-my-mom-what-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/i-really-miss-my-mom-what-becomes-of-a-5-year-old-in-maryland-and-other-the-separated-children-now/2018/06/21/28afbd54-759d-11e8-9780-b1dd6a09b549_story.html?utm_term=.383bb9cc8a01)  
10   *becomes-of-a-5-year-old-in-maryland-and-other-the-separated-children-*  
11   *now/2018/06/21/28afbd54-759d-11e8-9780-*  
12   *b1dd6a09b549\_story.html?utm\_term=.383bb9cc8a01*, attached hereto as Ex. 110; “Bethany  
13   Continues to Work to Reunify Families Separated at the Border,” *available at*  
14   <https://www.bethany.org/campaigns/refugee>, attached hereto as Ex. 111.

17           284.   The Office of Licensing and Monitoring within Maryland’s Department of  
18   Human Services licenses several organizations that operate shelters at which unaccompanied  
19   children—including children separated from their parents under the federal government’s  
20   policy—are being placed. At least one such organization receiving children in Maryland is under  
21   contract with ORR to provide services for unaccompanied immigrant minors, including children  
22   separated from their parents under the policy.

24           285.   As the separated children are placed in foster homes, many will enter the  
25   Maryland’s public school system. Maryland’s 24 public school districts served nearly 900,000  
26

1 students during the 2016-17 school year. Per pupil expenditures for 2016-17 were over \$13,000  
2 per child. Of this total, approximately 95% of school funding came from state and local  
3 resources. For the 2016-17 school year, state and local spending for basic education totaled over  
4 \$12 billion, with nearly \$5 billion allocated to general instructional expenditures. *See* Selected  
5 Financial Data Maryland Public Schools 2016-2017 *available at*  
6 [http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DBS/SFD/2016-](http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DBS/SFD/2016-2017/SFD20162017Part3.pdf)  
7 [2017/SFD20162017Part3.pdf](http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DBS/SFD/2016-2017/SFD20162017Part3.pdf), attached hereto as Ex. 112.

9 286. **Virginia.** More than one hundred traumatized, unaccompanied alien children  
10 have been transported and are being housed at federal detention centers in Virginia. More than  
11 a dozen of those children were separated from their parents at the southern border. *See* Nick  
12 Anderson and Marissa J. Lang, *Sen. Tim Kaine tours Virginia shelter housing about 15 separated*  
13 *migrant children*, the Washington Post (June 22, 2018) *available at*  
14 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/sen-tim-kaine-tours-virginia-shelter-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/sen-tim-kaine-tours-virginia-shelter-housing-about-15-separated-migrant-children/2018/06/22/7bc1e8f2-763b-11e8-b4b7-308400242c2e_story.html?utm_term=.5be4b43f307c)  
15 [housing-about-15-separated-migrant-children/2018/06/22/7bc1e8f2-763b-11e8-b4b7-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/sen-tim-kaine-tours-virginia-shelter-housing-about-15-separated-migrant-children/2018/06/22/7bc1e8f2-763b-11e8-b4b7-308400242c2e_story.html?utm_term=.5be4b43f307c)  
16 [308400242c2e\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.5be4b43f307c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/sen-tim-kaine-tours-virginia-shelter-housing-about-15-separated-migrant-children/2018/06/22/7bc1e8f2-763b-11e8-b4b7-308400242c2e_story.html?utm_term=.5be4b43f307c), attached hereto as Ex. 113.

18 287. ORR reports that they have placed hundreds of unaccompanied alien children  
19 with sponsors in the Commonwealth of Virginia every year. For FY 2017, the last year for which  
20 complete data are available, ORR placed 2,888 children with Virginia resident sponsors. As of  
21 April 30, 2018, ORR's available data show that Virginia has already received 931  
22 unaccompanied alien children during this fiscal year. *See* Ex. 88.

24 288. Under federal law, states and local educational agencies are obligated to provide  
25 all children – regardless of immigration status – with equal access to public education at the  
26

1 elementary and secondary level. This includes unaccompanied alien children who may be  
2 involved in immigration proceedings. Once these children are released to a sponsor, they have  
3 a right to enroll in Virginia schools regardless of their immigration status. In Virginia, some of  
4 these unaccompanied alien children under 18 will be classified as homeless under applicable  
5 state and federal law. See Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-3. Virginia school divisions are required to  
6 immediately enroll homeless students. The Virginia Department of Education provides the state  
7 share, and the enrolling local school division is responsible for paying the local share of the cost  
8 for educating students enrolled in public schools at a total per pupil statewide average  
9 expenditure in excess of \$10,000.  
10

11         289. Unaccompanied alien children may seek a variety of health services in Virginia.  
12 For example, they need childhood immunizations and may seek testing and treatment when they  
13 present with symptoms of a communicable disease. In Virginia, school divisions are required to  
14 help any child classified as homeless obtain necessary physical examinations and  
15 immunizations. Va. Code § 22.1-271.2. Moreover, if an unaccompanied alien child needed to be  
16 hospitalized for emergency care, including psychiatric care, then Virginia would provide and  
17 bear the cost of that care in part by absorption of costs by state-owned hospitals.  
18

19         290. ORR places hundreds of unaccompanied minors with sponsors in the State of  
20 North Carolina every year. For FY 2017, ORR placed approximately 1,290 children with North  
21 Carolina-resident sponsors. As of April 30, 2018, ORR's available data show that North  
22 Carolina has already received 565 unaccompanied children during this fiscal year. *See* Ex. 88.  
23

24         291. **North Carolina.** The State of North Carolina has 11 State Refugee and Health  
25 Coordinators that are coordinated and organized through the State's Department of Health and  
26

1 Human Services Refugee Services program. North Carolina's Refugee Services program  
2 integrates federal funding from ORR with other federal and state funding. The program services  
3 thousands of refugees across the State of North Carolina.  
4

5 292. **District of Columbia.** ORR places hundreds of unaccompanied minors with  
6 sponsors in the District of Columbia every year. For FY 2017, the last year for which complete  
7 data are available, ORR placed almost 300 children with District of Columbia resident sponsors.  
8 As of April 30, 2018, ORR's available data show that the District of Columbia has already  
9 received more than 80 unaccompanied children during this fiscal year. *See* Ex. 88.

10 293. In the District of Columbia, any child, including children who have been  
11 separated from their parents, is entitled to a free public education. The District spends almost  
12 \$10,000 per child in D.C Public Schools. The overwhelming share of the money spent on public  
13 education in the District comes from local taxes, fees, and resources. *See, e.g.,*  
14 [https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/DCOCFO\\_FY17\\_Bu](https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/DCOCFO_FY17_Budget_vol_3.pdf)  
15 [dget vol 3.pdf](https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/DCOCFO_FY17_Budget_vol_3.pdf).  
16

17 294. The District of Columbia offers comprehensive health insurance coverage to  
18 eligible children who have been separated from their parents through the Immigrant Children's  
19 Program, which provides coverage equal to that offered by Medicaid, including: doctor visits,  
20 immunizations, mental health services, dental, vision, and prescription drugs. *See* Department of  
21 Health Care Finance – DHCF Immigrant Children's Program *available at*  
22 <https://dhcf.dc.gov/service/immigrant-childrens-program>, attached hereto as Ex. 114.  
23  
24  
25  
26



1     **L.     Defendants’ Policy Harms the States’ Quasi-Sovereign Interests**

2           295.     States have a quasi-sovereign interest in protecting the health, safety, and well-  
3     being of their residents, including protecting their residents from harms to their physical,  
4     psychological, emotional, or economic health. The States’ interests in preventing and remedying  
5     injuries to the public’s health, safety, and well-being extends to all of their residents who will be  
6     harmed by the Policy. The Policy has caused and will continue to cause severe and immediate  
7     harm to the States’ residents, including parents who are detained, released, or otherwise reside  
8     in the States after being forcibly separated from their children; children who are placed in  
9     facilities, shelters, homes or otherwise reside in the States after being separated from their  
10    parents; extended families and sponsors in the States; and the States’ immigrant communities.

11  
12           296.     The States also have an interest in ensuring that their residents are not excluded  
13    from the rights and privileges provided by the U.S. Constitution, international laws, federal laws,  
14    and state laws. These rights include due process and equal protection rights afforded to alien  
15    parents and their minor children, and rights and protections under federal asylum and refugee  
16    laws, international human rights laws, and state laws.

17  
18           297.     The Policy causes measurable harm to existing immigrant communities in the  
19    States. A 2018 study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* finds that recent changes in  
20    U.S. immigration policy that appear to target Latino immigrants have triggered serious  
21    psychological distress for many resident Latino parents, including those living in the United  
22    States legally. A substantial proportion of U.S. Latino parents reported adverse emotional and  
23    behavioral consequences from recent immigration actions and news. For example, 66% said that  
24    they very often or always worry about family members getting separated. Nearly 40% of parents  
25    they very often or always worry about family members getting separated. Nearly 40% of parents  
26

1 said they frequently avoided getting medical care, help from police, or support from social  
2 service agencies because of reports about immigration actions. Parents who frequently  
3 experienced worries or changes in behavior due to immigration news and policies had at least a  
4 250% increase in the odds of experiencing high psychological distress, including clinical anxiety  
5 and depression. The association between U.S. immigration actions and psychological distress in  
6 this study held true after controlling for education, residency status, gender and other factors.  
7

8 298. Many of the States have resident Latino and Hispanic populations that are  
9 affected by the Policy and attendant distress. For example, as of 2010, 10.2 percent of the total  
10 population of Washington State was of Hispanic origin, with some counties over 45%. Indeed,  
11 roughly one in seven Washington residents is an immigrant, while one in eight residents is a  
12 native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent. The other States also have resident  
13 Latino and Hispanic communities who are impacted by the Policy, as well.  
14

15 299. Indeed, the States are already acting to try to protect the health, safety, and well-  
16 being of persons separated and harmed by the Policy. As a result of the Policy, thousands of  
17 immigrant parents and children are being separated and moved to a range of facilities or homes  
18 in the States or being released to live in the States. Transfer of these separated immigrant parents  
19 and children into the States will continue into the future as long as Defendants' Policy remains  
20 in place. *See* Exs. 55, 8, 21. In May 2018 alone, DHS took nearly 51,912 immigrants into  
21 custody, nearly three times the number detained in May 2017. Ex. 55. The number of families  
22 apprehended at the Southwestern border increased by 435% in May 2018 in comparison to May  
23 2017. Ex. 8. The States have an interest in protecting those immigrants who are resident, or will  
24 soon settle, in their jurisdictions.  
25  
26

1           300. Traumatized immigrant parents and children are already present in the States’  
2 shelters and in federal detention centers in the States. On June 7, 2018, ICE spokeswoman  
3 Danielle Bennett confirmed that because of “implementation of the U.S. Department of Justice’s  
4 zero-tolerance Policy . . . ICE has entered into inter-agency agreements with [the Bureau of  
5 Prisons (BOP)] to acquire access to more than 1,600 additional beds at [five] BOP facilities.”  
6 These include 220 beds at the Federal Detention Center SeaTac in Seattle, Washington; 130 beds  
7 in Sheridan, Oregon; and 1,000 beds at the Federal Correctional Institution Victorville Medium  
8 Security Prison in Victorville, California. *See* Robert Moore, Immigration Officials Taking Over  
9 1,600 Beds in Federal Prison System, Texas Monthly (June 8, 2018) available at  
10 [https://www.texasmonthly.com/news/immigration-officials-taking-1600-beds-federal-prison-](https://www.texasmonthly.com/news/immigration-officials-taking-1600-beds-federal-prison-system/)  
11 [system/](https://www.texasmonthly.com/news/immigration-officials-taking-1600-beds-federal-prison-system/), attached hereto as Ex. 115.

12  
13  
14           301. Defendants’ Policy causes severe and lasting psychological and emotional harm  
15 to immigrant parents in Washington who have been separated from their children. For example,  
16 of the approximately 200 immigrants detained in Seattle as of June 19, 2018, 174 were women,  
17 and dozens of those women were mothers who had been forcibly separated from their children,  
18 whose ages range from one-year-old to teenagers. *See* Jayapal Goes Inside Federal Detention  
19 Center to Meet with Asylum Seeking Women: “the mothers could not stop crying” (June 9,  
20 2018), *available at* [https://jayapal.house.gov/media/press-releases/jayapal-goes-inside-federal-](https://jayapal.house.gov/media/press-releases/jayapal-goes-inside-federal-detention-center-meet-asylum-seeking-women-0)  
21 [detention-center-meet-asylum-seeking-women-0](https://jayapal.house.gov/media/press-releases/jayapal-goes-inside-federal-detention-center-meet-asylum-seeking-women-0), attached hereto as Ex. 116. Many were  
22 asylum seekers from Latin American countries. *Id.* Most had been in detention for more than  
23 two weeks and many for over a month. *Id.* A majority of the mothers have not spoken with their  
24  
25  
26

1 children in weeks, and Defendants had not provided the mothers with any information regarding  
2 the whereabouts or well-being of their children. *Id.*

3 302. These women described the horrific and inhumane conditions at the Border Patrol  
4 facilities where they were previously detained, including fenced cages; lack of blankets and mats  
5 notwithstanding frigid temperatures; and lack of access to food and water. *Id.* Some suffered  
6 verbal abuse from border agents who called them “filthy” and “stinky.” *Id.* And they endured  
7 further intentionally inflicted trauma when agents told them their “families would not exist  
8 anymore” and that they would “never see their children again.” *Id.*

10 303. The specific stories of two immigrant mothers who are being detained in Seattle  
11 confirm this horrifying experience. These two mothers crossed the border in Texas, immediately  
12 turned themselves in, and were taken to a holding facility. The mothers were each separated  
13 from their daughters upon arrival and held in a facility they describe as similar to a dog kennel.  
14 The following week, the mothers appeared in federal court, were charged with illegal entry,  
15 found guilty, and served time in Texas. After approximately three weeks, the mothers were  
16 flown to SeaTac, where they remain in prison without their daughters.

18 304. A growing number of children separated from their parents pursuant to  
19 Defendants’ Policy have been placed in facilities in Washington. These children have suffered  
20 severe psychological and emotional trauma.

22 305. Similarly, a Brazilian woman who recently arrived in Massachusetts presented  
23 herself for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border and was detained and then separated from her 8-  
24 year-old son. Immigration authorities determined that she has a credible fear of persecution if  
25 she is returned to Brazil, so she has since been released pending adjudication of her asylum  
26

1 claim. As of June 22, 2018, she had not, however, been reunited with her son, who remains in  
2 a facility in Chicago, where he hasn't been able to see his mother for almost a month. *See* Akilah  
3 Johnson, *A Brazilian Mother Seeking Asylum Was Freed from Detention. Her son was not.* The  
4 Boston Globe (June 22, 2018) available at  
5 [https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2018/06/22/brazilian-mother-seeking-asylum-was-](https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2018/06/22/brazilian-mother-seeking-asylum-was-freed-from-detention-her-son-was-not/kIYT1F4fHTsHxdkfmHh73I/story.html)  
6 [freed-from-detention-her-son-was-not/kIYT1F4fHTsHxdkfmHh73I/story.html](https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2018/06/22/brazilian-mother-seeking-asylum-was-freed-from-detention-her-son-was-not/kIYT1F4fHTsHxdkfmHh73I/story.html), attached hereto  
7 as Ex. 117.  
8

9 306. In Massachusetts, two Guatemalan children were recently released to their father,  
10 a Massachusetts resident, after being separated from their mother, with whom they crossed the  
11 border to seek asylum. She is still in detention in Texas. The children were held in facilities in  
12 Texas and then Michigan for five weeks until they were released to their father. The young girl,  
13 who is 9 years old, has been particularly affected by the experience and still cries for her mother.  
14 *See* Mark Sullivan, *Guatemalan in Westboro Sees the Effects of Separation Policy Firsthand*,  
15 The Worcester Telegram & Gazette (June 20, 2018) available at  
16 [http://www.telegram.com/news/20180620/guatemalan-in-westboro-sees-effects-of-separation-](http://www.telegram.com/news/20180620/guatemalan-in-westboro-sees-effects-of-separation-policy-firsthand)  
17 [policy-firsthand](http://www.telegram.com/news/20180620/guatemalan-in-westboro-sees-effects-of-separation-policy-firsthand), attached hereto as Ex. 118.  
18

19 307. Defendants' abhorrent and indefensible family-separation Policy has already had  
20 an impact on Oregon in a variety of ways, and will continue to do so. There are at least 123  
21 immigrant men detained at the federal prison in Sheridan, Oregon. At least six of these are  
22 fathers, from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, who have been separated from their children  
23 pursuant to the Policy. Oregon's federal lawmakers have been able to visit these detainees, and  
24 report that they have been denied access to lawyers and health care and are confined to cells for  
25  
26

1 up to 22 hours a day. Oregon immigration lawyers also report that they have been repeatedly  
2 denied access to detainees. The Mexican Consulate reports that one of the detained men had his  
3 newborn infant, only 15 days old, taken from him. Another detainee was separated from his 18-  
4 month-old toddler. Another reports his wife is detained in San Antonio, Texas, and he does not  
5 know the whereabouts of their 4-year-old child.  
6

7 308. There are a number of children in Oregon who have been separated from their  
8 parents by the defendants' implementation of its Policy, including two children who saw their  
9 mother being taken away in chains. At least three others have been separated from their parents  
10 at the border pursuant to the Policy.  
11

12 309. Defendants' unlawful Policy also cruelly affects the wellbeing of Oregon  
13 residents, including its immigrant and Hispanic and Latinx populations. For example, a  
14 substantial number of Oregon residents are survivors of the Japanese-American internment  
15 camps of World War II, or family members of such survivors. Many of those survivors and/or  
16 family members have experienced significant emotional and psychological distress as a result of  
17 the government's family-separation Policy.  
18

19 310. Similarly, some Oregonians are survivors of Nazi concentration camps. Many of  
20 those survivors are also experiencing profound psychological and emotional distress as a result  
21 of the federal government's family-separation Policy. For all these Oregon survivors and their  
22 families, the Policy echoes the ethnic-based targeting that they experienced in the twentieth  
23 century, and causes them to relive the trauma of one of the darkest times in history. Many  
24 survivors are also profoundly afraid for the safety of minority communities targeted by the  
25 current Administration.  
26

1           311. Defendants' Policy similarly harms immigrant parents and children in California  
2 who have been separated by federal immigration officials. For example, at least 50-60 children  
3 are being served in group homes and family homes approved by foster family agencies in  
4 California as a result of Defendants' Policy.

5  
6           312. Additionally, parents, including asylum-seekers, who have been separated from  
7 their children are being housed at facilities throughout Southern California. There is a  
8 particularly large number of immigration detainees being held at the Victorville facility, but  
9 unlike the SeaTac facility, attorneys have been denied access to determine how many of those  
10 individuals are parents.

11  
12           313. Several asylum-seeker parents who arrived at a port of entry with a migrant  
13 caravan in April 2018 were separated from their children. While their children have been placed  
14 by ORR in facilities across the nation, the parents are being detained in other immigration  
15 detention facilities in California. Parents are not provided with information about their  
16 children's whereabouts or how to locate them. As a result, parents have been unable to locate  
17 or communicate with their children, are not receiving regular in-person visitation or phone  
18 contact with their children, and have not been told if or when their families will be reunified.

19  
20           314. Likewise, New Mexico has a right to ensure that no one within its border is  
21 excluded from the rights and privileges provided by the U.S. Constitution, international, federal  
22 or state law. State resources are used without statutory authority if used in furtherance of  
23 unconstitutional federal policies contravening the purposes of New Mexico's constitution and  
24 laws. There is well documented evidence to suggest that these interests are currently being  
25 infringed upon with the boundaries of the State of New Mexico.  
26

1           315. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement reported that 15 Unaccompanied  
2 Children (UAC) taken into custody in New Mexico were released to U.S. sponsors between  
3 October 2017 and April 2018, but those children were not released to caregivers licensed by the  
4 State of New Mexico. One Brazilian grandmother held at the Santa Teresa border crossing in  
5 New Mexico was separated from her 16-year-old ward almost a year ago. The child, who has  
6 severe epilepsy, neurological problems and is autistic, was placed in Connecticut. *See* Angela  
7 Kocherga, *Zero-tolerance policy impacts New Mexico*, Albuquerque Journal June 20, 2018, page  
8 4 (citing Maria Vandelice de Pastos' attorney Eduardo Beckett), *available at*  
9 <https://www.abqjournal.com/1186875/zerotolerance-policy-impacts-new-mexico.html>,  
10  
11 attached hereto as Ex. 119.

12           316. Approximately fifty mothers, some with valid claims for asylum have had their  
13 children separated from them at border crossings and are being held in a private jail in Otero  
14 County, New Mexico. One of the Mothers details health issues her child faces and that she is  
15 completely unaware of where he is or whether his health needs are being addressed. *See* Jonathan  
16 Blitzer, "Mothers in a New Mexico Prison Do Not Know How to Find Their Children," New  
17 Yorker Magazine (June 21, 2018) *available at*  
18 [https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/mothers-in-a-new-mexico-prison-do-not-know-](https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/mothers-in-a-new-mexico-prison-do-not-know-how-to-find-their-children)  
19 [how-to-find-their-children](https://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/mothers-in-a-new-mexico-prison-do-not-know-how-to-find-their-children), attached hereto as Ex. 120.

20  
21           317. New Mexico also has an interest in ensuring that New Mexico citizens continue  
22 to be afforded their rights to cross the U.S.-Mexico border unmolested. Because many New  
23 Mexico families visit their relatives in Mexico and because these families traditionally visit with  
24  
25  
26



1 their own children in tow, such New Mexico citizens face the potential of separation in  
2 derogation of their rights to travel and to maintain their familial ties.

3 318. Because there is direct evidence of harm to these families, occurring within the  
4 borders of New Mexico, the state has a distinct interest in ensuring that no violations of law  
5 occur. This notion is grounded in general principles of federalism, and are distinctly the  
6 obligations of the state in ensuring that its constitution and laws are upheld. This interstitial  
7 framework is well grounded in law and is the underpinning of our system of government.

9 319. Fathers who were forcibly separated from their children at the border are  
10 currently being detained at the Elizabeth Detention Center in Elizabeth, New Jersey. *See* Brenda  
11 Flanagan, *At Detention Center Rally, Family Reunification Left in Question*, NJTV News June  
12 22, 2018, clip available at [https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/at-detention-center-rally-](https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/at-detention-center-rally-family-reunification-left-in-question/)  
13 [family-reunification-left-in-question/](https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/at-detention-center-rally-family-reunification-left-in-question/).

15 320. In addition, children who were forcibly separated from their parents at the border  
16 have been placed at the Center for Family Services in Camden, New Jersey, which contracts  
17 with ORR to provide shelter to children who crossed the border. *See* Kelly Heyboer and Erin  
18 Banco, *20 Immigrant Children Have Arrived in N.J. in the Last 30 Days. Here's What We Know*,  
19 NJ Advance Media for NJ.com, Updated June 22, 2018 at 12:24PM,  
20 [https://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2018/06/are\\_immigrant\\_kids\\_being\\_held\\_in\\_nj\\_heres\\_ho](https://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2018/06/are_immigrant_kids_being_held_in_nj_heres_how_trum.html)  
21 [w\\_trum.html](https://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2018/06/are_immigrant_kids_being_held_in_nj_heres_how_trum.html), attached hereto as Ex. 121.

23 321. Defendants' Policy causes severe and potentially permanent emotional and  
24 psychological trauma to children in Rhode Island who have been separated from their parents  
25 pursuant to Defendants' Policy. Unaccompanied Alien Children are released to sponsors in  
26

1 Rhode Island by the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the United States Department of Health  
2 and Human Services each year. For example in FY 2017, 234 total Unaccompanied Minor Child  
3 were released in Rhode Island and thus far in FY 2018 that total already stands at 129. These  
4 children have suffered severe psychological and emotional trauma. *See*. Unaccompanied Alien  
5 Children Released to Sponsors by State (June 30, 2017) Ex. 88.  
6

7 322. In Vermont, reports are emerging that federal authorities' animus toward Latino  
8 migrants is taking a psychological and medical toll on migrant workers essential to Vermont's  
9 dairy industry and economy. *See* J. Dillon, *For Undocumented Workers On Vermont Farms,*  
10 *2017 Was A Year Filled With Anxiety*, Vermont Public Radio (January 5, 2018), (public health  
11 screening of migrant workers found 80% exhibiting elevated levels of stress), available at  
12 [http://digital.vpr.net/post/undocumented-workers-vermont-farms-2017-was-year-filled-](http://digital.vpr.net/post/undocumented-workers-vermont-farms-2017-was-year-filled-anxiety#stream/0)  
13 [anxiety#stream/0](http://digital.vpr.net/post/undocumented-workers-vermont-farms-2017-was-year-filled-anxiety#stream/0), attached hereto as Ex. 122. The Policy will likely increase the strain on an  
14 already vulnerable population.  
15

16 323. Children who have been forcibly separated from their parents at the border have  
17 already arrived in Minnesota and other children who have been separated from their parents are  
18 likely to come to Minnesota in the future.  
19

20 324. For example, an 8 year-old girl experienced the most "traumatic moment of her  
21 life" when she was forcibly separated from her father at the U.S.-Mexico border. *See* Chris  
22 Serres and Mary Lynn Smith, the Star Tribune (June 23, 2018) *available at*  
23 [http://www.startribune.com/migrant-children-separated-from-parents-start-to-arrive-in-](http://www.startribune.com/migrant-children-separated-from-parents-start-to-arrive-in-minnesota/486365431/)  
24 [minnesota/486365431/](http://www.startribune.com/migrant-children-separated-from-parents-start-to-arrive-in-minnesota/486365431/), attached hereto as Ex. 123. The father "begged the officer to be able to  
25 stay with his child. He was crying. She was crying." *Id.* After they were separated, her father  
26

1 was deported to Guatemala. The girl remains in Minnesota, but wants to be reunited with her  
2 family.

3 325. As one lawyer who represents unaccompanied minors in Minnesota explained,  
4 “[s]o many of these children, they just want their parents. They really, really, really want to be  
5 reunited with their families.” *Id.*  
6

7 326. Illinois has also received children affected by the Policy. As of June 22, 2018,  
8 approximately 66 minor children, who have been separated from their parents or guardians and  
9 are awaiting immigration proceedings, are currently under the care of Heartland Alliance.  
10 Currently, Heartland is housing these separated children in the cities of Chicago and Des Plaines.

11 327. Heartland is endeavoring to reunite the 66 separated children with family  
12 members in the United States. Certain of these children will likely remain in Illinois, given the  
13 fact that 1,568 unaccompanied minors were released to sponsors located in Illinois between  
14 October 2014 and April 2018. *See* Ex. 88.  
15

16 328. New York State relies on the same agencies that the federal ORR relies on for  
17 provision of foster care services. ORR currently contracts with eleven provider agencies in New  
18 York State to care for UACs, including those children whom Defendants have separated from  
19 their parents: Abbott House; Catholic Family Center; Catholic Guardian Services; Cayuga Home  
20 for Children; Children’s Home of Kingston; Children’s Village; Jewish Child Care Association  
21 of New York; Rising Ground (formerly Leake and Watts Services); Lincoln Hall; Lutheran  
22 Social Services of New York; and MercyFirst. These agencies either run residential congregate  
23 care programs that house the children or place the children with family or sponsors in the  
24 community, or do both. These agencies also provide residential care and placement services for  
25  
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1 children who enter New York's child welfare system because they are abandoned, abused,  
2 neglected, delinquent or dependent children. OCFS has confirmed that at least 321 children who  
3 have been separated from their parents at the Southwestern border are currently in the care of  
4 one of these eleven agencies and thus residing in New York State. Since the State was unable to  
5 obtain this information from HHS or ORR, OCFS undertook efforts to create a census of  
6 separated children in New York State. Specifically, OCFS's Acting Commissioner issued a  
7 directive to the agencies to confirm the total number of UACs in their care. Upon receipt of that  
8 information, OCFS staff verbally verified with each voluntary agency how many of those  
9 children were in fact separated from their families at the border. To accomplish this, OCFS staff  
10 took a hiatus from their regular duties and, in a single day, physically went to each of the 11  
11 agencies to review records and interview children in order to obtain a current head count. ORR  
12 has still not confirmed this number or shared data regarding how many children have already  
13 come through these voluntary agencies, or how many it plans to send to these voluntary agencies  
14 in the future.

17 329. Staff at one voluntary agency have informed local government officials that the  
18 ages of most children newly placed at their agency, many of whom were separated from family  
19 at the border, are between four and twelve. The youngest child so far was a nine-month-old  
20 baby, in addition to multiple not-yet-verbal toddlers.

22 330. The children whom Defendants have separated from their parents and sent to New  
23 York are suffering extreme trauma. For example, a South American boy who was separated from  
24 his father at the Mexican border was rushed to the hospital because he was about to jump out of  
25 the second-story window of the group home where he was sent in early June after being forcibly  
26

1 separated from his family. The distraught child verbalized that he wanted to jump because he  
2 missed his parents. Twelve other young immigrant children who were separated from their  
3 parents at the border have been treated for physical and mental illnesses at New York City  
4 hospitals. One child was suicidal and others were treated for depression and anxiety. *See* Jillian  
5 Jorgensen, *City hospitals have treated 12 immigrant children who were taken from parents,*  
6 *including a suicidal child*, N.Y. Daily News (June 21, 2018) available at  
7 [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-immigrant-children-treated-20180621-](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-immigrant-children-treated-20180621-story.html)  
8 [story.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-pol-immigrant-children-treated-20180621-story.html), attached hereto as Ex. 124.

10 331. New York State has a quasi-sovereign interest in the health, safety and well-being  
11 of all children within its borders, and Defendant's separation policy directly undermines that  
12 interest by causing severe trauma to these children. New York State goes to great lengths to  
13 provide significant due process protections for both parents and children when families are  
14 separated as a result of government action. When a child is placed in foster care in New York,  
15 state statutes and regulations afford both the parent and the child a range of rights, including the  
16 right of visitation. Indeed, the child's *family* service plan must include a plan for regular  
17 visitation between the parents and child. N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 409-e; N.Y. Comp. Codes R. &  
18 Regs. Tit. 18 § 428.3. *See also* N.Y. Fam. Ct. Act § 1030(a) (providing that a parent has a right  
19 of regular and reasonable visitation with a child in foster care unless otherwise prohibited by  
20 court order). This right of regular visitation is afforded even when one or both parents is  
21 incarcerated in a prison or jail. In that situation, the child welfare agency must make suitable  
22 arrangements with the correctional facility for a parent to visit with the child, unless the visiting  
23 would be harmful to the child. 11 OCFS ADM 07. Moreover, parents who are incarcerated are  
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1 entitled to participate in the planning for their child in foster care by participating in family court  
2 proceedings and periodic family service plan reviews. *See* N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. Tit.  
3 18 § 428.9. To protect these vital rights, state law provides that the parent of a child in foster  
4 care has a right to assigned counsel by the court where such parent is financially unable to obtain  
5 one. N.Y. Family Court Act § 26. Such rules are premised on the importance of the parent-child  
6 bond, and the parent's critical, indispensable role in assuring that the needs of his or her child  
7 are met. Here, by contrast, the parents and children whom Defendants have separated at the  
8 border are afforded no visitation procedure and have no process to recognize or protect their  
9 rights. Due to Defendant's illegal policy, the separated children who are currently residing in  
10 New York are being treated differently than other children in foster care in the State, to their  
11 great detriment and in direct contravention of the state's interest in ensuring the health, safety,  
12 and well-being of all its residents.

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15 332. Upon information and belief, family members of separated children currently  
16 reside in New York State. An HHS spokesman stated that "[t]here's an effort to place [children  
17 who were separated at the border] as closely as possible to where they're going to be eventually  
18 reunified with a sponsor or a family member" and that if a child was placed in New York it  
19 usually means that there is a family member residing in the state who is a possible placement  
20 option for the child. *See* Tal Kopan, *Why some children have been sent to states far away from*  
21 *the US border*, CNN (June 22, 2018) available at [https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-](https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/immigration-border-children-separation/h_714fd2e091af7813fb8df5fc587c7b8b)  
22 [news/immigration-border-children-separation/h\\_714fd2e091af7813fb8df5fc587c7b8b](https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/immigration-border-children-separation/h_714fd2e091af7813fb8df5fc587c7b8b),  
23  
24 attached hereto as Ex. 125. New York has a quasi-sovereign interest in ensuring that children  
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1 residing in New York State, who have been separated from their parents, are placed with family  
2 members also residing in the State if the children cannot be quickly reunified with their parents.

3       333. **Maryland** has an interest in the health, safety, and wellbeing of all its residents,  
4 including any parents or children being placed in Maryland under the Policy. Immigration agents  
5 are reported to have sent dozens of children to Maryland during the implementation of the Trump  
6 Administration's family separation policy. The children often have no family connection to the  
7 state; they are sent here because the system has capacity. Some of the children have been placed  
8 with foster families coordinated by care organizations, while others are placed in residential  
9 group child care.  
10

11       334. Immigration officials are sending separated children to Maryland without the  
12 most basic information about the children or their parents, or how to connect them with one  
13 another. And many of the children have come with little or no information and are too young—  
14 as young as 18 months—to communicate with caregivers or social workers trying to track down  
15 relatives who could take them in. Thus, the sheltering organizations that are housing the children  
16 do not know how to identify, let alone locate, the children's parents, who risk deportation before  
17 they can find or be reunited with their children.  
18

19       335. Care organizations report that children who have been separated from their  
20 parents suffer greater trauma than other unaccompanied minors whom the organizations care for.  
21 For some of these children, their suffering is immediately apparent, as has been shown in  
22 publicly available videos and other recordings. For others, their suffering emerges over time, as  
23 they become more comfortable with the staff of the care organizations. And when those  
24 organizations can track down a parent and arrange for a call with his or her child, the children  
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1 are reportedly so upset afterwards that they need counseling. *See* Andrea K. McDaniels, *Border*  
2 *separations could have traumatic impact on children, doctors say*, The Balt. Sun (June 22, 2018) at  
3 A9, *available at* [http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-border-separation-trauma-20180621-](http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-border-separation-trauma-20180621-story.html)  
4 [story.html](http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-border-separation-trauma-20180621-story.html), attached hereto as Ex. 126; Ian Duncan, “”, The Balt. Sun, June 21, 2018, at A1,  
5 *available at* [http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-border-separations-20180620-](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-border-separations-20180620-story.html)  
6 [story.html](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-border-separations-20180620-story.html), attached hereto as Ex. 127.

8 336. Parents who have been separated from their children are also being sent to  
9 Maryland and detained in local facilities that contract with ICE to hold detainees, mostly pending  
10 criminal process. Anne Arundel, Frederick, Howard, and Worcester counties have all agreed to  
11 hold immigration detainees, and the Anne Arundel Detention Center is reportedly holding at  
12 least two parents who have been separated from their children under the Trump Administration’s  
13 policy. *See* Ex. 127. In addition, Maryland is the location of a Federal Correctional Institution  
14 and the Chesapeake Detention Facility where, by contract, the federal government houses federal  
15 pre-trial detainees, which might be affected by ICE’s policy of housing separated parents in  
16 federal detention facilities. Parents held in Maryland have little contact with their children and  
17 no information about where they are being held. One was reportedly separated from his five-  
18 year-old daughter by force and has not had any contact with, or information about, her in the two  
19 months since. *See* Patricia Sullivan, *Md., Va. congressmen hear stories of family separation*, the  
20 Washington Post (June 21, 2018) at B4, *available at*  
21 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/md-va-congressmen-hear-stories-of-family-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/md-va-congressmen-hear-stories-of-family-separation/2018/06/20/af3fe0ae-74aa-11e8-b4b7-308400242c2e_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fa6d5bb19919)  
22 [separation/2018/06/20/af3fe0ae-74aa-11e8-b4b7-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/md-va-congressmen-hear-stories-of-family-separation/2018/06/20/af3fe0ae-74aa-11e8-b4b7-308400242c2e_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fa6d5bb19919)  
23 [308400242c2e\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.fa6d5bb19919](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/md-va-congressmen-hear-stories-of-family-separation/2018/06/20/af3fe0ae-74aa-11e8-b4b7-308400242c2e_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fa6d5bb19919), attached hereto as Ex. 128.  
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1           337. In other respects, as well, ORR is using facilities in Maryland to facilitate the  
2 Administration's family separation policy without providing the transparency that would allow  
3 Maryland to ensure the safety and security of its residents, including the parents and children  
4 who have been separated from one another under the policy. ORR has provided no information  
5 about the care and circumstances of immigrant children detained within Maryland's borders—  
6 where they are being held; what condition they are in; where their parents are; whether they have  
7 adequate food, clothing and shelter; whether they have access to medical care and legal  
8 representation; or when and how they will be reunited with their families.  
9

10           338. Children separated from their families as a result of Defendants' actions have  
11 been sent to organizations in **Pennsylvania**. For instance, 50 child immigrants separated from  
12 their families are being housed at the Holy Family Institute in Emsworth, Pennsylvania, a  
13 Catholic social services organization that is under contract with Defendant ORR. *See* Paula  
14 Reed Ward and Ashley Murray, *Child migrants separated from families housed at Holy Family*  
15 *Institute in Emsworth*, *Pittsburg Post-Gazette* (June 17, 2018) available at [http://www.post-](http://www.post-gazette.com/news/faith-religion/2018/06/17/Child-migrants-separated-from-families-being-housed-at-Holy-Family-Institute/stories/201806160074)  
16 [gazette.com/news/faith-religion/2018/06/17/Child-migrants-separated-from-families-being-](http://www.post-gazette.com/news/faith-religion/2018/06/17/Child-migrants-separated-from-families-being-housed-at-Holy-Family-Institute/stories/201806160074)  
17 [housed-at-Holy-Family-Institute/stories/201806160074](http://www.post-gazette.com/news/faith-religion/2018/06/17/Child-migrants-separated-from-families-being-housed-at-Holy-Family-Institute/stories/201806160074), attached hereto as Ex. 129. The  
18 children, who range in age from 4 to 17, are from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and other  
19 countries. Other child immigrants separated from their parents as a result of Defendants' actions  
20 have been placed with a shelter in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. *See* Laura Benshoff, *As Trump*  
21 *ends family separation policy, children removed from their parents are already in Pa.*, (June 21,  
22 2018), available at [https://whyy.org/segments/as-trump-ends-family-separation-policy-](https://whyy.org/segments/as-trump-ends-family-separation-policy-children-removed-from-their-parents-are-already-in-pa/)  
23 [children-removed-from-their-parents-are-already-in-pa/](https://whyy.org/segments/as-trump-ends-family-separation-policy-children-removed-from-their-parents-are-already-in-pa/), attached hereto as Ex. 130.  
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1           339. The **District of Columbia** places an emphasis on preserving families and  
2 reunifying families even when children become involved with the state due to child abuse or  
3 neglect. *See* D.C. Code § 4-1303.03(a)(11) and (a)(13). The District of Columbia follows the  
4 United States Supreme Court’s holdings that there is “a presumption that fit parents act in the  
5 best interests of their children,” *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 68, (2000), and recognition  
6 that the state may not “inject itself into the private realm of the family” absent a finding of  
7 unfitness. *Id.* at 68–69. The Court has frequently emphasized the importance of the family, and  
8 has held that individuals have a fundamental right to parent their own children. *Stanley v. Illinois*,  
9 405 U.S. 645, 651 (1972). This important relationship may not be terminated without a predicate  
10 determination, by clear and convincing evidence that the individual is unfit to parent. *Santosky*  
11 *v. Kramer*, 455 U.S. 745 760, 768–71 (1982).  
12

13           340. The District of Columbia also prohibits discrimination based upon the race, color,  
14 religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender  
15 identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, genetic information, disability,  
16 matriculation, or political affiliation, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily  
17 offense, and place of residence or business of any individual. D.C. Code § 2-1401.01.  
18

19           341. Defendants’ Policy causes severe and potentially permanent emotional and  
20 psychological trauma to children who have been separated from their parents, some of whom  
21 are placed with sponsors in the District of Columbia. The number of children placed with  
22 sponsors in the District will increase as the sponsors are identified and vetted, and approved to  
23 receive these children.  
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**V. CAUSES OF ACTION**

**Count I: Violation of Fifth Amendment – Substantive Due Process**

342. All of the foregoing allegations are repeated and realleged as though fully set forth herein.

343. State residents who are parents have a fundamental liberty interest in the care, custody, and control of their children. This includes current state residents and those who may arrive in the States following separation pursuant to Defendants' Policy.

344. State residents who are minors have a reciprocal liberty interest in their parents' care. This includes current state residents and those who may arrive in the States following separation pursuant to Defendants' Policy.

345. State residents who are minors have a right to be free of unreasonable risk of harm, including trauma from separation and detention, as well as the risk of harm from housing them in unlicensed facilities.

346. Defendants' Policy offends the Due Process Clause by separating parents from their children without any showing that the parent is unfit or is otherwise endangering the child.

347. Defendants' violation causes ongoing harm to the States and their residents.

**Count II: Violation of Fifth Amendment – Procedural Due Process**

348. All of the foregoing allegations are repeated and realleged as though fully set forth herein.

349. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment prohibits the federal government from depriving individuals of their liberty interests without due process of law.

1           350. Defendants' Policy deprives the States' residents of a fundamental liberty interest  
2 with no hearing whatsoever. This includes current state residents and those who will arrive in  
3 the States following separation pursuant to Defendants' Policy.

4           351. Defendants have violated the procedural due process guarantees of the Fifth  
5 Amendment.

6           352. Defendants' violation causes ongoing harm to the States and their residents.

7           **Count III: Violation of Fifth Amendment – Equal Protection**

8           353. All of the foregoing allegations are repeated and realleged as though fully set  
9 forth herein.

10           354. The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment prohibits the federal  
11 government from denying equal protection of the laws.

12           355. The Policy burdens a fundamental right and targets individuals for discriminatory  
13 treatment based on their nationality or ethnicity, without lawful justification, and is therefore not  
14 narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling governmental interest. The Policy is also  
15 unconstitutional because it disparately impacts immigrants from Latin America arriving at the  
16 Southwestern border and is motivated by animus and a desire to harm this particular group.

17           356. Alternatively, the discriminatory terms and application of the Policy are arbitrary  
18 and do not bear a rational relationship to a legitimate federal interest.

19           357. Through their actions above, Defendants have violated the equal protection  
20 guarantee of the Fifth Amendment.

21           358. Defendants' violation causes ongoing harm to the States and their residents.

**Count IV: Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act**

359. All of the foregoing allegations are repeated and realleged as though fully set forth herein.

360. The Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 706(2), prohibits federal agency action that is arbitrary, unconstitutional, and contrary to statute.

361. Defendants' Policy constitutes final agency action for purposes of the Administrative Procedure Act.

362. Defendants have offered no legitimate basis for their Policy.

363. Defendants' Policy is arbitrary and capricious because it conflicts with various laws requiring Defendants and the States to consider the best interests and well-being of children arriving to the United States.

364. The Policy is not authorized or required by the TVPRA, which only applies to unaccompanied minors. The minors subject to Defendants' Policy are not "unaccompanied," as they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. Indeed, in a White House Press Release, dated October 8, 2017, Defendants released a "detailed outline of President Trump's immigration principles and policies" which states Defendants' agreement that "alien minors [] are not UACs [if they are] accompanied by a parent or legal guardian." *See* Immigration Principles & Policies, available at <http://www.aila.org/infonet/wh-immigration-principles-and-policies>, attached hereto as Ex. 131.

365. Further, as alleged herein, the separation Policy contravenes the spirit and purpose of the TVPRA, which seeks to protect children. In general, the TVPRA requires,

1 whenever possible, family reunification or other appropriate placement for unaccompanied alien  
2 children. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1232(c)(2)(A).

3 366. In implementing the Policy, federal agencies have taken or will take  
4 unconstitutional and unlawful action, as alleged herein, in violation of the Administrative  
5 Procedure Act.  
6

7 367. In implementing the Policy, federal agencies have applied or will apply  
8 provisions arbitrarily, in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

9 368. Defendants' violation causes ongoing harm to the State and its residents.

10 **Count V: Violation of Asylum Laws**

11 369. Under United States law, noncitizens with a well-founded fear of persecution  
12 shall have the opportunity to obtain asylum in the United States. 8 U.S.C. § 1158 (“[a]ny alien  
13 who is physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States . . . irrespective  
14 of such alien’s status, may apply for asylum in accordance with this section.”). Federal law also  
15 prohibits the return of a noncitizen to a country where he may face torture or persecution. *See* 8  
16 U.S.C. § 1231(b); United Nations Convention Against Torture (CAT), implemented in the  
17 Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-277, div. G, Title XXII,  
18 § 2242, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-822 (1998) (codified as Note to 8 U.S.C. § 1231).  
19

20 370. In enacting these statutes, Congress created a right to petition our government for  
21 asylum that at the very least requires that asylum seekers be able to present themselves at ports  
22 of entry to request asylum. Defendants are preventing asylum-seekers from presenting  
23 themselves at ports of entry that are allegedly “full,” thus preventing asylum claims from being  
24 heard, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1158.  
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371. Another effect of turning asylum-seekers away prior to their reaching a port of entry is that the immigrants are then forced to cross the border outside a port of entry, in a claimed violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1325, in order to present their asylum claim. But under the Policy, all such border-crossing violations are referred to the Department of Justice and prosecuted. By criminalizing the pursuit of asylum, this Policy runs counter to established immigration and refugee laws that allow a person to present themselves to immigration officials to request asylum wherever they are able.

## VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiffs request that the Court enter a judgment against Defendants and award the following relief:

a. Enjoin Defendants from refusing to accept applications for asylum at a valid port of entry, and from criminally charging asylum applicants with illegal entry or re-entry if they present themselves at a valid port of entry;

b. Declare Defendants' family separation Policy unauthorized by or contrary to the Constitution and laws of the United States;

c. Enjoin Defendants from enforcing the family separation Policy, including at all United States borders and ports of entry, pending further orders from this Court;

d. Order Defendants to expeditiously reunite all children with parents from whom they have been separated pursuant to the Policy, unless a court of competent jurisdiction has found the parents to be unfit;

1           e.     Enjoin Defendants from conditioning family reunification on an  
2 agreement not to petition for asylum or other relief available under the INA, or on an  
3 agreement to withdraw a petition or other request for that relief;  
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5           f.     Enjoin Defendants from removing separated parents from the United  
6 States without their children, unless the parent affirmatively, knowingly, and voluntarily  
7 waives the right to reunification before removal after consultation with an attorney;  
8

9           g.     Enjoin Defendants from placing children in unlicensed facilities;  
10

11           h.     Order Defendants to provide specific information to parents who are  
12 lawfully separated from their children about the nature and purpose of the separation, the  
13 process by which they can be reunified, and the whereabouts of their children at all times,  
14 absent a finding by a court of competent jurisdiction that such information would be  
15 dangerous to a child's welfare;  
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17           i.     Award such additional relief as the interests of justice may require.  
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1 Respectfully submitted this 26th day of June, 2018.

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*Pro Hac Vice* motions forthcoming for all counsel of  
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