



Invest in Our Communities, Not in Detention and Deportation

NETWORK and our partners across the country urge you to protect our communities and resist any new funding for detention and deportation.

Grounded in Gospel values, we believe all people have inherent dignity – no exceptions. Each one of us has the right to be treated with respect, the right to migrate, and the right to basic life essentials. In a recent letter to the U.S. Bishops, Pope Francis wrote:

“... The act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness.”

Yet, the House and Senate Reconciliation bills provide at least \$300 billion to detain and deport our neighbors and family members—at the cost of our food and health care programs. **This is immoral.**

As several Members of Congress try to line the pockets of corporate executives by terrorizing our communities, **Congress must hold the line against an increase of funds for detention and deportation.**

Funding detention and deportation hurts our country because:

- **The U.S. already operates the largest immigration detention system in the world.**
 - The Trump administration has declared a goal to expand detention capacity to 100,000 beds, more than doubling the currently funded 41,500 beds.
 - The calls for expanded detention are fueled by fearmongering myths, not by evidence. Immigration detention does NOT make our communities safer.
- Supercharged funding for widespread deportations will leave **children without caregivers** and will **exacerbate the fear in communities** where many are already afraid to send children to school.
 - The American Psychological Association warns that increased immigration enforcement will lead to **“deterioration and long-term mental health consequences, especially among families and children.”**
- **Detention hands our taxpayer dollars to private prison corporations.** 90.8% of people in immigration detention are held in facilities run by private prison corporations. ICE’s oversight system permits abuse in and stifles accountability for these private prisons corporations, yet they have made record profits from detention contracts.



- **Detention wastes federal funds.** ICE’s own internal reviews in 2022 recommended the closure of nine ICE facilities operated by private corporations, as it cost taxpayers \$235 million. Nevertheless, ICE has kept seven facilities open.
 - **Military deportation flights are incredibly costly to taxpayers – as much as \$3 million per flight.**
 - The Trump administration is already spending exorbitant amounts of money to transfer and jail immigrants in Guantanamo, where they are guarded by troops and cut off from communication with their loved ones and lawyers.
- **Deportations hurt the U.S. labor market** and lead to worse labor market outcomes for U.S.-born workers.

These are examples of how detention and deportation hurt all of us.

The current reconciliation bill would give the Trump administration hundreds of billions of dollars to continue to militarize immigration enforcement in the United States and terrorize our communities, including in our schools, hospitals, and places of worship.

Detention and deportation threaten our safety. They destabilize our communities, separate families, and deteriorate trust in public institutions – and are a reckless waste of taxpayer resources.

Investing in deportation = investing in instability.

Congress: Do not take food and health care from our families to deport our neighbors and enrich the ultra-wealthy.