

Protecting Communities, Defunding Detention: Talking Points

KEY MESSAGES:

Congress: Do not give the Trump administration hundreds of billions of dollars to terrorize our communities with militarized immigration enforcement.

It is immoral to slash our families' food and health care programs to pay for cutting taxes for billionaires and rounding up our neighbors.

Detention and deportations make us unsafe and unstable. Immigrants are our family members, neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

NARRATIVE:

1. No matter where we come from, what we look like, or how old we are, we all want and deserve to live in a safe and thriving community.
2. Today, certain lawmakers are threatening our communities with raids and round ups, attacking our immigrant neighbors and people seeking safety. They do this to distract us while they pass policies to line the pockets of the ultra-wealthy.
3. But we aren't falling for the division and scapegoating. Separating families, caging people seeking safety, and deporting our neighbors doesn't make us safer – it makes us unstable. We know that immigrants make our communities vibrant and our economy strong.
4. **Together, people of faith are calling on Congress to NOT increase funding for detention and deportation in the budget reconciliation bills. Cutting our health care and food to pay for detaining our neighbors and enriching billionaires is dangerous and wrong.**

TELL STORIES: It is important to communicate how detention and deportation (and the fear surrounding it) is hurting our communities. *Without using identifying information*, tell stories of how you or anyone you know is living in fear of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid, or how ICE raids have already impacted your community.

Note: *We believe that the total allocation for detention and deportation in the budget reconciliation bills will be at least \$300 billion. We are basing that figure off of the funds allocated to Congressional committees that work on detention and deportation, and the expressed intent of the leaders on those committees to expand funding for detention and deportation. The final allocated amount may be even more than \$300 billion.*

THE FACTS:

Increasing funding for detention and deportation is wrong and counterproductive because...

- **Immigrants are our family members, neighbors, coworkers, and friends, and they make our communities safer.**
 - Nine out of 10 cities that received the most refugees relative to the size of their total population have experienced a **decrease in their violent crime rates** and property crime rate, according to a recent study.
- **ICE raids terrorize our communities and bring fear to innocent people and children.**
 - Many mixed-status families are already afraid to send their children to school because of the increased immigration enforcement in our communities.
 - Ramping up immigration enforcement efforts will cause even more chaos, fear, and family disruptions in our communities. Mental health professionals warn of the long-standing harm these actions will cause.
 - According to ICE statistics, more than 50% of the people detained in ICE raids have **no criminal record** and in some cases are even DACA recipients or citizens.
 - **ICE raids round up innocent people** and target Black and Brown people regardless of their immigration status.
- **Deportations hurt the U.S. labor market** and lead to worse labor market outcomes for U.S.-born workers, as a [2024 Brookings Institute study](#) demonstrated.
- **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 cut off from communication with their loved ones and lawyers.
- **Detention enriches private prison corporations at our expense.** Private prison corporations, which operate the vast majority of ICE detention beds, have made record profits from detention contracts. ICE's oversight system permits abuse in and stifles accountability for these private prisons.

Detentions and deportations hurt all of us!

Tell your Members of Congress:

Protect our communities! Do NOT increase funding for detention, deportation, and militarized immigration enforcement.