

Protect Families, Reject Deportations: Lobby Visit Talking Points

Note: Tell stories from your state! It is important to communicate how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids are already hurting people and stoking fear in your local community.

KEY MESSAGE: We call on Congress to REJECT funding for militarized immigration enforcement that tears apart our families and communities.

Across the country, Catholics and all people of goodwill know that families belong together, and that our vibrant communities make our nation prosper. Catholic teaching affirms that we all have the right and freedom to migrate to seek a good life for ourselves and our families.

Yet, the House budget reconciliation bill is loaded with funding to round up, detain, and deport our immigrant community members, at the expense of our food and health care.

This is immoral, reckless, and bad policy. **Congress must reject funding for militarized immigrant enforcement and protect our communities instead.**

Immigrants are our family members, neighbors, coworkers, and friends, and they make our communities stronger.

- **Immigrants have long been part of our communities.** Families worship in local parishes, children attend local schools, and workers staff the local businesses we love.
- **One in four children in the U.S. has an immigrant parent**, and most of these children are U.S. citizens.
- **Undocumented immigrants paid \$96.7 billion in U.S. taxes in 2022**, with more than a third of their taxes going to Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment insurance they are barred from accessing.
- **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 and property crime rates.
- Roughly **1 in 12 Christians** could be deported or live with someone who could.

Yet, the House budget bill contains \$150 billion to raid our neighborhoods, separate families, and go after people seeking safety.

- ✗ **\$45 billion** to expand adult and family immigration detention, which is enough to maintain 100,000 detention beds a year, nearly tripling the current figure. Shockingly, *the bill contains no guardrails on how long children can be held.*
- ✗ **\$20 million** to detain families charged with misdemeanor border crossings together.
- ✗ **\$14.4 billion** for deportations and **\$8 billion** to recruit and hire 10,000 new ICE agents. **\$1.32 billion** is earmarked just for ICE immigration prosecutors.

- ✗ **\$100 million** to send minors back to countries where they may face danger.
- ✗ **\$650 million** for facilitating [287\(g\) agreements](#) with local law enforcement, along with **\$950 million** to compensate states for jailing immigrants with criminal and civil violations. Even overstaying a visa could be grounds for incarceration.
- ✗ **\$12 billion** to reimburse states like Texas for aggressive border operations.
- ✗ **\$4.1 billion** to hire 3,000 new Border Patrol agents, 5,000 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, and nearly 500 additional personnel.
- ✗ **A staggering \$46.5 billion** for approx. 2,300 miles of new and replacement border walls.

Funding detention and deportation will only disrupt families, stoke fear, and leave our communities worse off.

- **ICE raids terrorize our communities and bring fear to innocent families and children.** [60 percent of mixed-status families](#) say they worry about participating in everyday activities for fear of drawing attention, like sending children to school, talking to police, or going to the doctor, work, or religious services.
- **Deportations hurt the labor market** and [lead to worse outcomes for U.S.-born workers](#).
- When factoring in the cost of borrowing, the actual removal of 8.7 million people, and other fiscal impacts, the total price tag could soar to **\$900 billion**.
- Spending \$88 billion annually on mass deportations would be **three times more** than federal [spending on child nutrition](#).
- **Military deportation flights are incredibly costly**—as much as [\\$3 million per flight](#).
- **Detention enriches private prison corporations at our expense.** Private prison corporations have made [record profits from detention contracts](#). ICE's oversight system permits abuse in and stifles accountability of detention facilities.

Common-sense immigration policy should uphold dignity, fairness, and prioritize meaningful reforms like pathways to permanent legal status – not rip apart families and stoke fear by militarizing our neighborhoods.

Tell your Members of Congress:

Detentions and deportations hurt all of us.

Protect our families and our communities!

NO FUNDING for militarized immigration enforcement.