



Dignity and Due Process for Children Act

The *Dignity and Due Process for Children Act* would enshrine needed protections in a time when the Trump administration has targeted children in their cruel immigration regime.

Background

The Trump administration is desperate to detain and deport immigrants — so much so that they are kidnapping children, coercing them to make complex legal decisions, and using the force of the United States military to remove them from this country. We must end child detention. And so long as Trump continues to deny due process to children in immigration detention, we must do everything we can to counteract the cruelty and ensure children are treated with dignity and have comprehensive access to legal counsel. ICE has arrested teenagers, including a 16-year-old with legal status pulled from an immigration check-in. Unaccompanied minors have been removed in the middle of the night and loaded onto planes for deportation, causing severe trauma. The administration has deployed military aircraft and personnel for deportation flights. In one of the most horrifying schemes yet, the administration is coercing unaccompanied migrant children with \$2,500 to self-deport — without legal counsel, without safeguards, and with full exposure to traffickers waiting to exploit them.

These are children. They are among the most vulnerable people on earth. And this administration is using the full weight of the federal government against them.

Solution

The Dignity and Due Process for Children Act establishes clear, enforceable protections for immigrant children. It closes the loopholes this administration has exploited and ensures federal resources cannot be weaponized against children. This is a stopgap — a floor, not a ceiling. Three protections every child in this country deserves right now:

- 1. Prohibits ICE from kidnapping children.** Children who are alone or without a parent present cannot be detained by immigration enforcement.
- 2. Protects children from coerced legal waivers.** No unaccompanied child can be pressured into signing any document affecting their legal rights or immigration status without their attorney present.
- 3. Bans the use of military resources to transport children for immigration enforcement.** Military planes, personnel, and assets have no place in the deportation of children. This bill makes that prohibition even more explicit in law.

Children belong on playgrounds. They belong with their families. Not in a detention facility in Texas. Not on a military plane. Not alone making legal decisions.

Endorsing Organizations: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), National Center for Youth Law (NCYL), National Immigrant Justice Center, and Acacia Center for Justice

For more information, please visit dexter.house.gov