



HR1178

LRB100 22455 MST 41348 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump has falsely claimed that the forced family separation that took place at the U.S.-Mexico border is rooted in law; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, The family separation was a direct result of an announcement made in early April of 2018 by Attorney General Jeff Sessions which stated that the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security would work together to criminally prosecute everyone who crosses the border illegally, now known as the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" policy; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

WHEREAS, Since the implementation of this policy, over 2,300 young children have been torn away from their families; and

12

13

14

WHEREAS, It has been reported that hundreds of children have been caged with fencing at a facility in McAllen, Texas; and

15

16

17

WHEREAS, It has been reported that federal agents ripped a child away from her mother while she was breastfeeding her; and

18

19

WHEREAS, It has been reported that federal agents removed children from their families, ostensibly to give them baths,

20

1 and they never returned; and

2 WHEREAS, Both law enforcement and Health and Human Services  
3 officials have been unable to provide statistics on how many of  
4 the detained children are under the age of five, two, or even  
5 so young that they are non-verbal; and

6 WHEREAS, There has been no independent documentation of the  
7 living conditions inside the detainment facilities, as allowed  
8 journalists have been barred from taking photographs or videos;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, All of the photographs depicting the living  
11 conditions in such facilities have been provided by the Trump  
12 Administration; and

13 WHEREAS, According to a former youth care worker at the  
14 Estrella del Norte shelter in Tucson, Texas, during his tenure  
15 children struggled to cope with the extreme trauma, causing  
16 them to lash out hysterically and even attempt self-harm; and

17 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association, the American  
18 Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association,  
19 and the American College of Physicians have all condemned the  
20 administration's practice, warning that children torn from  
21 their parents experience serious short and long-term health

1 consequences; and

2 WHEREAS, According to experts, unexpected separation from  
3 a parent figure triggers a flood of stress hormones that  
4 disrupt neural circuits in the brain, creating high levels of  
5 anxiety, and damaging a child's capacity to manage their  
6 emotions, trust people, and focus their attention on  
7 age-appropriate activities; and

8 WHEREAS, As a nation, we put an end to the child welfare  
9 system using orphanages due to concerns of lasting trauma to  
10 children, and now the federal government has placed young  
11 children in facilities that are not equipped to take care of  
12 them; and

13 WHEREAS, In response to the clear mistreatment of children,  
14 11 states are pulling National Guard troops from the  
15 U.S.-Mexico border; and

16 WHEREAS, Governor Bruce Rauner previously said he would  
17 send Illinois National Guard troops to the border, if asked to  
18 by the president; and

19 WHEREAS, While the president reversed course in signing an  
20 executive order to end his policy of family separation, it  
21 fails to address the over 2,300 young children who were torn

1 away from their parents and remain separated; and

2 WHEREAS, The United Nations' top human rights official,  
3 Democratic and Republican lawmakers and governors from across  
4 the country, Prime Minister Theresa May, Pope Francis, and  
5 other religious groups have condemned or criticized the  
6 administration's policy; and

7 WHEREAS, The administration's unconscionable treatment of  
8 children is an affront to basic human decency and to the values  
9 that built the State of Illinois and the United States of  
10 America; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
13 urge Governor Bruce Rauner to reverse his previous stance by  
14 pledging that no state resources will be used to assist the  
15 Trump Administration in carrying out its policies at the  
16 border, and that he call on the Acting Inspector General of the  
17 Department of Homeland Security to fully investigate how the  
18 thousands of young children currently detained are going to be  
19 reunited with their families; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois, the  
22 Illinois Congressional Delegation, the Attorney General of the

1 United States, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland  
2 Security, the Acting Inspector General of the Department of  
3 Homeland Security, and the President of the United States.