



The Honorable Tim Kaine  
United States Senate  
B40C SDOB  
Washington, DC 20510

June 21, 2018

Dear Senator Kaine,

Since at least early April of this year, the Trump administration has been carrying out a new policy of separating families seeking to enter the United States at the border. This includes families expressly seeking asylum in the U.S. Children from infancy on up have been ripped from the arms of their parents by border control and ICE agents. At its height, it is estimated that as many as 70 children a day were being taken from their parents. These children are being housed in isolation, in cages in abandoned Walmarts and tents in the summer heat of the southwest desert. Our president has referred to them as vermin, filth and an infestation. Yesterday, in response to the mounting pressure applied by countless American citizens Mr. Trump backed down and reversed himself and promised to stop the practice.

The Alliance for a Progressive Virginia opposes this new Trump policy in the strongest and most emphatic terms. I am sending this letter today to be delivered by our delegation to formally ask that you do all in your power to see that this vile and illegal human rights violation actually ends and that this administration is prevented from doing further damage.

We are aware of and grateful for your introduction of the ***Keeping Families Together Act***, which would prohibit DHS from separating families of asylum seekers except in extraordinary cases. Thank you, but don't stop there.

We are painfully aware of the limitations our system of government places on minority party members of Congress, but we expect our elected officials to work for their constituents and as Virginians we are calling on you to become even more of a leader in the fight against this monstrous new Trump policy choice and similar actions in the future. Make no mistake this president and his cabinet are bent on inflicting fear and suffering on the most vulnerable members of our community. We do not trust them and we need to know you are on guard.

Alliance for a Progressive Virginia is an all-volunteer, not for profit organization, whose goal is to educate and influence the public, the media and elected officials at the local, state and national levels about important issues of the day. We are guided in this by our basic, common sense progressive values of economic fairness, social justice, and good government.

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- This policy was an attempt at blackmail designed to get Trump his wall, We ask that you do NOT cooperate.
- Oppose any strawman legislation that proports to end this practice, such legislation is unnecessary and only serves to confuse the public as to administration responsibility. As he proved on Wednesday this president always had the power to end this catastrophe with a pen stroke.
- Attend, support or participate in hearings that bring the appropriate department heads before you under oath and invoke Congressional oversight to investigate the origins of this “policy”. Hold human rights violators who have participated in implementing this administration’s plans accountable before the law.
- Join the call for the resignation of DHS Secretary, Kirstjen Nielsen whose statements during this crisis indicate either incompetence, dishonesty or both.
- Sponsor a motion of censure for the president and members of the Trump cabinet who have knowingly lied about this new program in public while committing a clear human rights violation by implementing this new policy.
- Join our call for the break-up of ICE. The Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE is the product of the ill-advised conglomeration of various federal security agencies after 9-11. It has become a rogue, strongarm force for this administration and has lost the confidence of many Americans. It should be broken down to its constituent parts and demilitarized.
- Declare a moratorium on filling any more judgeships under this criminal and illegitimate administration until after the November elections, at the least.

We are witnessing the most openly corrupt, immoral and dishonest administration in modern American history, aided and abetted by a supine majority in Congress. Senator, we expect more of our leaders. The issue of governmental kidnapping, which is what this new policy amounted to is not a difficult one, we know your heart is in the right place on this matter and appreciate what you have already done. Now we need you to stand out even more as a leader. More than ever we need our leaders to stand up to this tyrant. On behalf of our membership around the Commonwealth I look forward to your response.

Regards,  
 Ms. Rhonda Hening  
 President, Alliance for a Progressive Virginia

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