



Latino Policy Coalition

June 4, 2012

VIA E-MAIL, PARCEL DELIVERY, and FACSIMILE

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Request for Executive Order: Reunite Children Separated from Detained/Deported Immigrant Parents.

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to you on a matter of grave urgency: the removal and separation of the American children from their hard working immigrant parents.

These heartless separations are violations of basic human rights. The deportation and detention policies of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the lack of clear procedures by county foster care systems, are at fault.

In 2011, over 48,000 mothers and fathers of at least one U.S. citizen child were part of massive ICE detentions and deportations. During these sweeps parents were unable to claim or make arrangements for their children to be returned to them, or to be cared for by close family members.

Many children are being permanently separated from their parents' love, by federally-funded county agencies that have inadequate or non-existent practices and policies, to address the distinctive circumstances that undocumented immigrant parents in detention or deportation proceedings face.

There is no national reunification registry of these children, and their current location, to assist these parents seeking to reunite with their children.

This issue affects and disconcerts the entire Latino community, most of whom supported you in 2008.



Latino Policy Coalition

You have promised Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and in several speeches you told our community that the deportation process would only focus on “violent offenders and people convicted of crimes; not families, not folks who are just looking to scrape together an income.”

These actual anti-Latino actions by ICE, as demonstrated in the Secure Communities-Program, fail to live up to your promises. In fact, these practices constitute racial profiling.

Many Latino voters know of relatives and close friends who, as parents, are being permanently separated from their children -- as if working honestly to build a better life for their children is a major crime.

For these thousands of parents and their children we urge immediate and compassionate action from the President of the United States of America.

We respectfully request that you issue an Executive Order that puts an end to the shattering of Latino families; and begins the process of reuniting these children with their parents.

Please issue the attached proposed Executive Order which would require, as a first step, the establishment of a national reunification registry of these children and their location- so their parents can find them and reunify with them.

Your Presidency must not be tainted with the legacy of violating the human rights of Latino parents and children. Let your Administration reflect what we believe to be in your heart.

No one has the right to separate a child from the parent they love. Nobody

Sincerely,

Jim Gonzalez
Chair

Attached: Suggested Presidential Executive Order: