

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

June 22, 2018

Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: National Guard Deployment on our Southern Border

Dear Governor Brown:

As you know, due to widespread outcry against the Trump Administration's outrageous and unnecessary "zero-tolerance" policy, the President has announced an end to the practice of separating families at the border. However, we remain concerned about the welfare of the children that were torn apart from their parents and remain in detention facilities across the United States.

The Trump Administration enacted a hastily designed plan separating children from parents suspected of unlawfully crossing the southern border, as well as those seeking asylum pursuant to our laws. Not only was this practice cruel, immoral and potentially illegal, it was executed in a stunningly haphazard manner. Currently, there are more than 11,000 migrant children being held in shelters, including 2,500 children removed from their parents at the border in the past five weeks. Many of the shelters have been accused of mistreating children, in some instances beating them and drugging them against their will and without parental or judicial consent.

The poor execution of this heartless policy raises serious concerns about the federal government's capacity to now reunite children currently in federal detention centers with their parents. To date, the Trump Administration has refused to provide independent oversight and review of detention facilities, their tracking procedures, or the specific status of the children and parents they claimed to have successfully reunited to date. The vast majority of parents whose children have been taken from them have not been given any information regarding their children's whereabouts. Only a few parents have had the opportunity to talk to their children via a phone. In several reported cases, parents have been deported without their children. In the wake of this bureaucratic catastrophe the Trump Administration has not offered a credible plan on how and when it plans to reunite children with their parents.

Meanwhile, your April 2018 Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Homeland Security deployed 400 California National Guard members in furtherance of the President's executive order to secure the Southern border with Mexico. While we appreciated the fact that your agreement to deploy California's National Guard was conditioned to be focused primarily on improving public safety and not enforcing immigration law, we can no longer tolerate using our state resources to support government agencies detaining young children involuntarily ripped from their parents, many of whom were seeking refuge in accordance with national and international laws.



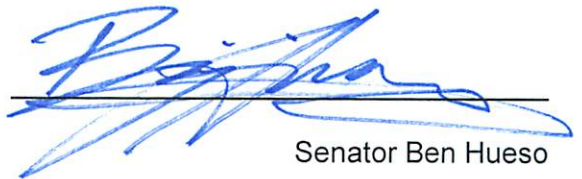
Given the inhumane, disorganized and immoral execution of the federal government's "zero-tolerance" policy, we write to urge you to reconsider providing material support to federal agencies executing that policy. Unless the Trump Administration abandons that unnecessary and cruel policy, we encourage you to rescind California's Memorandum of Understanding with Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen of the Department of Homeland Security and recall our National Guard's men and women from the border.

In this dark chapter of American history, California should not play any part in the irreparable trauma being inflecting upon thousands of vulnerable young children. California must be clear and unequivocal in its opposition to such policies and should not be complicit in any manner in the indefinite incarceration of families and young children, particularly when less costly and more humane options exist.

Sincerely,



Senator Kevin de León



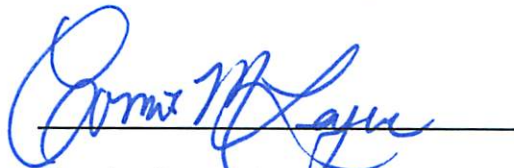
Senator Ben Hueso



Senator Robert Hertzberg



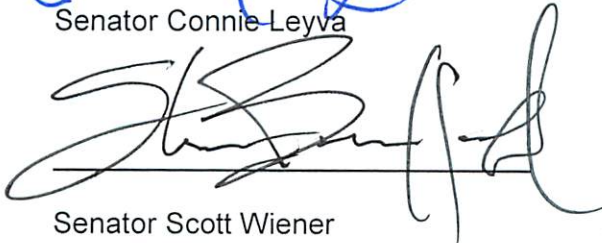
Senator Nancy Skinner



Senator Connie Leyva



Senator Bob Wieckowski



Senator Scott Wiener



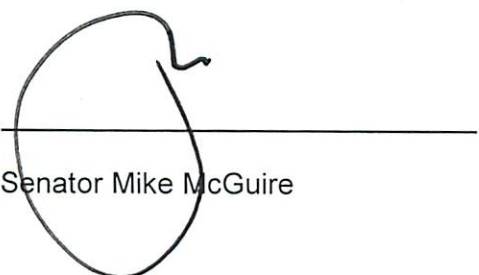
Senator Bill Monning



Senator Steve Bradford



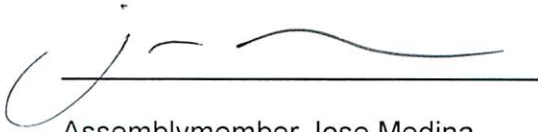
Senator Richard Pan



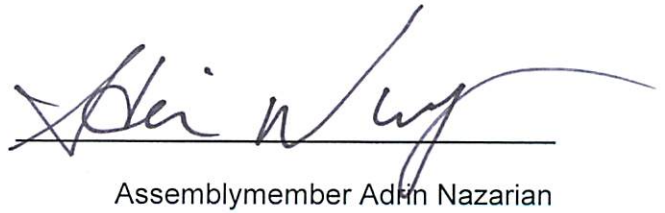
Senator Mike McGuire



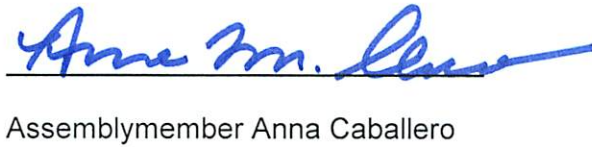
Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo



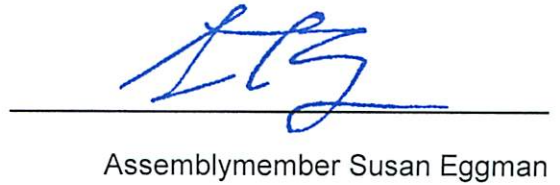
Assemlblymember Jose Medina



Assemlblymember Adrin Nazarian



Assemlblymember Anna Caballero



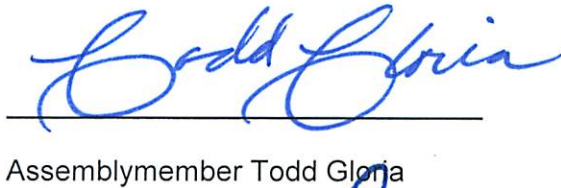
Assemlblymember Susan Eggman



Assemlblymember Miguel Santiago



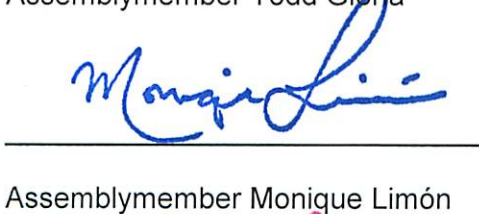
Assemlblymember Cecilia Aguilar-Curry



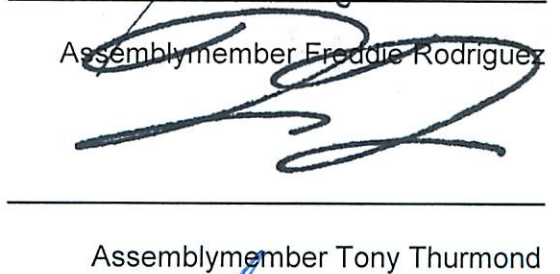
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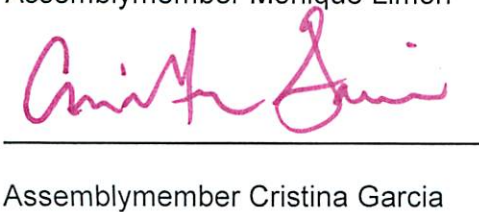
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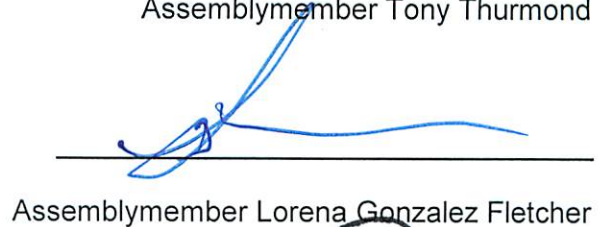
Assemlblymember Monique Limón



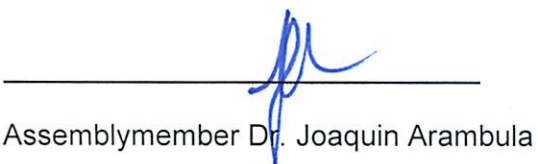
Assemlblymember Tony Thurmond



Assemlblymember Cristina Garcia



Assemlblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher



Assemlblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula



Assemlblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes



Senator Ricardo Lara