



Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act

Members of Congress and the public continue to be outraged by the Trump Administration's response to and treatment of asylum seeking families and children at our southwestern border. This legislation combines and supplements several legislative proposals to protect children and families at the border.

Following the passage of the border supplemental funding bill, this legislation is intended to provide guardrails and minimum standards for the treatment of children and families, ensuring that government funds are not used to traumatize or harm asylum seekers.

Here's what the bill would do:

End family separations

End family separations except when authorized by a state court or child welfare agency, or when Customs and Border Protection and an independent child welfare specialist agree that a child is a trafficking victim, not the child of an accompanying adult, or is in danger of abuse or neglect.

Set minimum health & safety standards

Set minimum health and safety standards for children and families in Border Patrol Stations.

- o This section requires access to hygiene products including toothbrushes, diapers, soap and showers, regular nutritious meals, and a prompt medical assessment by trained medical providers.

End for-profit contractors

End for-profit contractors from operating new Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) standard shelters or influx facilities.

- o Ensure that temporary influx facilities are state-licensed, meet Flores standards, and are not used to house children indefinitely.
- o Expand alternatives to detention and the successful Family Case Management Program.

Remove roadblocks to placing unaccompanied children with sponsors

Remove roadblocks to placing unaccompanied children with sponsors by lowering case manager caseloads, mandating lower staffing ratios, and ending the information sharing agreement between ORR and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Ensure unaccompanied children have access to legal counsel

Ensure unaccompanied children have access to legal counsel and continue to be placed in a non-adversarial setting for their initial asylum case review.

Provide resources to non-profit centers

Provide resources to non-profit centers that are helping provide humanitarian assistance.

Allow access for oversight

Allow Members of Congress, accompanying staff, and credentialed press (without cameras) to visit any facility with 24 hour notice.