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Outside of City Hall in Los Angeles on June 7, people hold signs to protest against President Donald Trump's executive order to detain children crossing the southern U.S. border, which separates families. Photo: Patrick T. Fallon/REUTERS (courtesy Episcopal News Service)

From the Partnership Commission

Children at the borders – what can we do?

Opinions may differ about the best response to those seeking refuge in the United States, but we can all agree that individuals and families should be treated humanely and with dignity. The “zero tolerance” policy announced by Attorney General Jeff Sessions last month led to anyone who is found near the border without papers for entry being apprehended, regardless of whether they planned to enter illegally or to seek asylum. Consequently, children are being routinely separated from their parents. We all know how painful and damaging such sudden separation can be for both children and their parents.

Several legislative proposals and bills introduced in Congress would help to ensure the safety and well-being of migrant children and families by halting the use of family separation as a deterrent, ensuring humane treatment at the border, helping children separated from their parents due to immigration enforcement, and providing legal representation to ensure unaccompanied children have a full and fair opportunity to make their cases and access legal protection.

Please contact your representatives, let them know how concerned you are and urge them to hold DHS and DOJ accountable by speaking out against family separation. Please also ask them to support the following proposed legislation:

[H.R. 2572 - Protect Family Values at the Border Act](#)

[H.R. 5950/S.2937 – the HELP Separated Children Act](#)

[H.R. 2043/S. 2468 - Fair Day in Court for Kids Act of 2018](#)

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