ALAS
Association of Latino Administrators
& Superintendents

For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT ON IMMIGRANT SEPARATION FROM CHILDREN

Washington, DC. – June 19, 2018 – Recent actions by the administration regarding the forced separation of minor children from their parents arriving at our nation's southern borders is an affront to our national values, accepted norms of fair treatment, and collective conscience as a society.

While we believe in the rule of law and protecting the homeland, it is imperative that policies towards immigrants entering the country without proper documentation are structured and enforced in a manner which allows parents and their children to remain together, without inflicting additional levels of trauma by requiring families to be separated.

Certainly, our border agents are tasked with a difficult job, and should be provided with the resources required to fulfill their duties. However, we must temper the current fervor for limiting immigration and closing our borders with a sense of humanity.

As Americans, and as an organization comprised largely of education professionals representing first-, second-, and third-generation immigrants, we are resolute in our opposition to the current practice of separating immigrant children from their parents while awaiting adjudication. We urge the administration to immediately cease these actions against innocent children.

We call upon Congress to put an end to this inhumane practice, and support measures to institute immigration reform centered around the ideals of democracy, grounded upon our heritage of accepting – and welcoming – immigrants, with robust protections for family units to ensure they remain intact.

In the midst of today's political turbulence, it is important to enshrine within our collective memory that America was built into an economic superpower by generations of immigrants, and that their work ethic continues to propel our economy forward even today.

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