



June 19, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen,

On behalf of the 33 undersigned Nursing Community Coalition organizations, representing the cross section of nursing education, research, practice, and regulation, we implore the Department of Homeland Security, and the overall Administration, to protect the health and wellness of immigrant children.

As a profession, we are committed to the patient, the family, the community, and the populations our members serve. At the core of our education is holistic care that encompasses the physical and mental well-being of all—at any age and in any location. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, it is well documented that when immigrant children are detained and separated from their parents, they can develop toxic stress, which can adversely impact their development.<sup>1,2</sup> Nurses are empowered to protect the most vulnerable populations. Children of immigrant families experiencing this stress are the embodiment of those our profession has committed to protect through compassionate and evidence-based care.

Our profession requests immediate action be taken to protect the health of immigrant children and reverse the current policy. Their young minds, their health, and their ability to thrive in the future is of utmost importance. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance, please contact the coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at [smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org](mailto:smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org), or at 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives

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<sup>1</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. *AAP Statement Opposing the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act*. Retrieved from: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAPStatementOpposingBorderSecurityandImmigrationReformAct.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Jack P. Shonkoff, Andrew S. Garner, et al. "The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress." *Pediatrics*. Volume 129, Issue 1. Retrieved from: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/1/e232>.

American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

CC:

The Honorable Alex Azar