

**TO ALL MEDIA:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\***

**STATEMENT FROM FOURTEEN OF THE NATION'S LARGEST NON-PROFITS:  
ADMINISTRATION'S ZERO TOLERANCE IMMIGRATION POLICY HARMFUL TO CHILDREN**

**(WASHINGTON, June 19, 2018)** – In a statement from fourteen CEOs from some of the nation's largest and most influential human service non-profits, nonprofit leaders noted:

“Separating immigrant children from their parents when they come to the border should never be a part of American policy. On behalf of the human services sector, representing more than five million staff and volunteers, we call on the Trump Administration to immediately stop this wrong and immoral policy, that has resulted in more than 2000 children being needlessly separated from their parents while their parents are being processed at our borders. Furthermore, we call on the U.S. Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to take immediate steps to restore connections between the infants, toddlers and teens who are currently in custody and their family members who are awaiting processing, including regular visitation and communication. The standards of care for these children must be equal to that expected in our current child welfare system, which at a minimum, should include access to a safe environment appropriate for families, age-appropriate services including education, trauma-informed mental and other health services, and family-based legal and immigration counseling. We urge the Administration and Congress to immediately put into place the laws, processes and resources that will ensure the health, safety and well-being of children and not be harmful and traumatizing to them, and stand ready to work with them to implement such policies. We must ensure all of our actions are grounded in the humanitarian values we have long held as a nation.”

**###**

**Signers:**



Susan Dreyfus  
President & CEO  
**Alliance for Strong Families  
and Communities**



Sylvia Acevedo  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Girl Scouts of the USA**



Nancy Brown  
Chief Executive Officer  
**American Heart Association**



Judy Vredenburg  
President & CEO  
**Girls Incorporated**



Sister Donna Markham  
President & CEO  
**Catholic Charities USA**



Jonathan Reckford  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Habitat for Humanity International**



Michael Brown  
Chief Executive Officer  
**City Year**



Charlotte Haberaecker  
President & CEO  
**Lutheran Services in America**



Matthew M. Knott  
President  
**Feeding America**



Paul Gionfriddo  
President & CEO  
**Mental Health America**



James Firman  
President & CEO  
**National Council on Aging**



Brian Gallagher  
President & CEO  
**United Way Worldwide**



Mike King  
President  
**Volunteers of America**



Alejandra Castillo  
Chief Executive Officer  
**YWCA USA**