Date: October 30, 2018

Re: DHS Docket No. ICEB-2018-0002

To Whom It May Concern:

The League of Women Voters of Dane County believes that the immigration policies of the United States should promote family reunification and should be responsible to those facing political persecution or a humanitarian crisis. The 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement has provided protections for children for 21 years, including forbidding the government from detaining them for a period longer than 20 days and providing that such detention could only occur in facilities that meet certain minimum standards for food and clothing, emergency and medical care, and access to education and recreation.

Research demonstrates the detention of children, especially when separated from their families, can result in long-term damage to their health and future well-being. Children could be spared this trauma if the government would adopt well-known alternatives to detention. Yet this proposed rule change will eliminate existing protections and expose children to the possibility of indefinite detention in facilities not subject to minimum standards.

We urge you to fight to maintain all the safeguards contained in the Flores Settlement Agreement, including limited detention of children. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aileen Nettleton, President