December 3, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Minority Leader Schumer and Ranking Member Lowey:

We, the undersigned New York-based immigration, civil and human rights, legal, faith, labor, education, and community organizations urge you to reduce funding for the Administration’s harmful immigration enforcement and family separation policies in the Department of Homeland Security FY 2019 budget, which is currently scheduled to run out on December 7.

New York has borne witness to the cruelty of this administration’s policies. From the hundreds of migrants apprehended at the southern border who have been torn from their families and sent to New York jails under ICE custody, to Border Patrol terrorizing our bus and train stations looking for community members with deep roots in the community to arrest and detain, to ICE recklessly profiling and detaining Latino youth on Long Island. Furthermore, by terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of people, the administration engaged in yet another type of family separation policy--Congress must also ensure these communities are protected.

Any increase in funding to DHS will only facilitate family separations, cause irreparable harm to the border region, and incentivize mass detention and deportation—policies that tear apart the fabric of our families and communities.

Specifically, we urge you to remain steadfast that the DHS budget not include any additional funding for:

- the hiring of additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents,
- the hiring of additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents,
- the expansion of immigrant detention space, or
- the building of an unnecessary southern border wall.

The United States already spends over $20 billion on immigration enforcement, more than every other federal law enforcement agency combined. At the same time, the current administration has refused to use common sense prioritization on how to use its resources, instead favoring a free for all approach that has targeted our most vulnerable community members and needlessly caused pain and destroyed families and communities. ICE has also
failed to comply with many reporting requirements from the FY 2018 appropriations bill, continues to expand detention capacity by spending beyond its appropriated dollars, and has doubled-down on problematic contracting mechanisms already flagged by DHS’s own Inspector General.

Every dollar added to this effort to criminalize immigrants and separate families undermines our values as New Yorkers and is a dollar that is not building our infrastructure, supporting our communities or promoting economic growth. We urge you to protect all New York families and to resist any and all efforts to expand this immoral deportation force.

Sincerely,

New York Immigration Coalition
Asian American Federation
CAIR New York
Centro Corazon de Maria
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Council Of Peoples Organization, inc
DEJUS CENTER (Worker’s Defense Education & Justice)
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving
Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc
GASI Inc.
Grace Immigrant Outreach (GIO)
Justice for Migrant Families WNY
La Colmena
Legal Services of Central New York, Inc.
LSA Family Health Service
MinKwon Center for Community Action
New York Civil Liberties Union
North Fork Spanish Apostolate
OCA - WHV
Plattsburgh Cares
Presbyterian Church
Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York
Rockland Immigration Coalition
S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.
Sakhi for South Asian Women
SEIU 32BJ
SEPA Mujer Inc.
Sisters of Charity of New York
United Community Center of Westchester
Unlocal, Inc.
Yam Community Resource, Inc