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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1000 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY TAI, VAZQUEZ, GAINNEY, STURLA, BRIGGS, NEILSON,  
SIMS, SCHLOSSBERG, HARKINS, A. DAVIS, FRANKEL, KINSEY,  
BULLOCK, DEAN, DERMODY, LONGIETTI, BOYLE, RABB, DeLUCA,  
DAVIS, KRUEGER-BRANEKY, DALEY, CEPHAS, DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO,  
COMITTA, FITZGERALD, CARROLL, DAVIDSON, MADDEN, FREEMAN,  
DeLISSIO, WARREN, DAWKINS, GALLOWAY, ROE, KIM, CALTAGIRONE,  
KORTZ, SCHWEYER, J. McNEILL, YOUNGBLOOD, D. MILLER,  
PASHINSKI, M. QUINN, RAVENSTAHL, WHEATLEY, DEASY, HILL-EVANS,  
O'BRIEN, SAMUELSON, ROEBUCK AND DRISCOLL, JUNE 25, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 25, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States to immediately reverse  
2 the administration's zero-tolerance, family-separation  
3 immigration policy which has led to the removal of more than  
4 2,000 migrant children from their parents' care and custody  
5 from April to May 2018.

6 WHEREAS, In April 2018, United States Attorney General Jeff  
7 Sessions announced a zero-tolerance policy for individuals  
8 immigrating into the United States illegally along the southern  
9 border of the country; and

10 WHEREAS, The policy set forth by the Department of Justice  
11 criminally prosecutes individuals entering the United States,  
12 many of whom are seeking asylum, and holds them in Federal  
13 prisons to await deportation proceedings while sending their  
14 children to facilities maintained by the Department of Health  
15 and Human Services; and

16 WHEREAS, As of June 2018, nearly 12,000 migrant children,

1 some as young as 18 months old, who have had their greatest  
2 fears of parental separation become reality, are being held in  
3 Health and Human Services facilities scattered throughout 17  
4 states; and

5 WHEREAS, Several of the facilities house groups of children  
6 in cages built from metal fencing with little more than blankets  
7 made of foil sheets, compelling them to care for one another;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The facilities maintained by the Department of  
10 Health and Human Services are nearing full capacity, leading the  
11 department to consider the establishment of outdoor tent cities  
12 on military bases to accommodate the increasing number of  
13 unaccompanied children; and

14 WHEREAS, The living conditions that these children are being  
15 forced to endure due to the administration's irresponsible  
16 immigration policy are inhumane and heartless; and

17 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics has warned that  
18 the deeply traumatic separation of child and parent may cause  
19 irreparable harm to a child's psychological and physical health  
20 as toxic stress may lead to inefficient or ineffective brain  
21 development as well as long-term medical problems; and

22 WHEREAS, The administration's immigration policy not only  
23 presents a moral and humanitarian crisis, but is also contrary  
24 to the principles that this nation was built upon; and

25 WHEREAS, Abusing the basic human rights of innocent children  
26 as political leverage to gain meaningful immigration policy  
27 reform is an abhorrent tactic and should be ceased immediately;  
28 therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
30 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President of the United

1 States to immediately reverse the administration's zero-  
2 tolerance, family-separation immigration policy which has led to  
3 the removal of more than 2,000 migrant children from their  
4 parents' care and custody from April to May 2018; and be it  
5 further

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the importance of family  
8 and actively support policies keeping children with their  
9 parents as they come to the United States; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
11 the President of the United States.