



## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS STATEMENT ON EXECUTIVE ORDER ADDRESSING FAMILY SEPARATION AT BORDER CROSSINGS

The American Academy of Family Physicians continues to place high priority on the mental and physical health and safety of families separated during border crossings. The AAFP notes that an executive order purports to ensure that, going forward, migrating children will remain with their parents and/or caregivers during the detention process. We are deeply concerned that the order fails to address the previously separated families.

The children originally detained at the southern border remain held apart from their parents, some as far away as Michigan, New York and South Carolina. The administration is silent on its plans to reunite these families in an expeditious and humane manner. Further, while we assume the children's physical needs are being met, with each passing day apart from their families, the mental and emotional toll taken on these children continues to mount.

Accordingly, we urge the following of the administration:

- Immediately place the highest priority on reuniting the previously separated families.
- Ensure the mental and physical health and safety of the families, in particular, by providing access to qualified medical professionals to assess and monitor the emotional well-being of the children in the custody of the U.S. government.

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