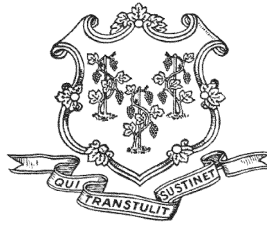


SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Eleventh District
New Haven, Hamden & North Haven



State of Connecticut
SENATE

State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591
132 Fort Hale Road
New Haven, Connecticut 06512
Home: 203-468-8829
Capitol: 860-240-8600
Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Attorney General Sessions:

We write to you regarding the cruel and inhumane policy of forcibly separating migrant children from their parents when apprehended at the border. We feel compelled to speak out against this heartless and unconscionable practice which runs counter to the very fabric of American society and Connecticut's values.

This crisis is a tragedy of this administration's own making, stirring the echoes of some of history's darkest hours. And at what cost? The senseless trauma that these children are experiencing will have long and lasting effects. It is why this policy has been rightly condemned by the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, former first ladies of the United States, at least 75 former U.S. Attorneys, members of Congress and countless others.

Tearing families apart should not be the official policy of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice. This policy has brought international shame to the United States. In Connecticut, we value immigrants, we have enshrined it in our laws and our public policy because we know that time and again America is at its strongest when we openly accept people from foreign lands; when we view immigrants not as competition, but as brothers and sisters in carrying forward the torch of liberty.

We demand that the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice immediately halt forcibly separating migrant children from their parents and end this zero tolerance policy for undocumented immigrants entering the United States.

Sincerely,

Martin M. Looney
Senate President Pro Tempore

Bob Duff
Senate Majority Leader

Gary Winfield
Senator, 10th District

Doug McCrory
Senator, 2nd District

Marilyn Moore
Senator, 22nd District

Beth Bye
Senator, 5th District

Cathy Osten
Senator, 19th District

Tim Larson
Senator, 3rd District

Steve Cassano
Senator, 4th District

Terry Gerratana
Senator, 6th District

Carlo Leone
Senator, 27th District

John Fonfara
Senator, 1st District

Edwin Gomes
Senator, 23rd District

Joan Hartley
Senator, 15th District

Mae Flexer
Senator, 29th District

Paul Doyle
Senator, 9th District

Ted Kennedy, Jr.
Senator, 12th District