



**CONNECT
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ACHIEVE**

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June 15, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Keep Families Together Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the 31,000 mental health providers represented by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT), we wish to convey our appreciation and support of the *Keep Families Together Act*.

Immigration and immigration reform is a complicated and controversial political and policy issue with no clear right answer. However, implementing any law or policy that purposefully results in the removal of children from their parents is inherently unconscionable and will result in long term trauma for the children involved. For decades it has been widely held by the medical and psychological field that separation of children from their parents typically results in long term negative behavioral, psychological, and cognitive trajectories.

As the federal government tackles the complicated issue of immigration reform, it must cease the “zero tolerance” policy of separating families; to allow the federal government to continue with this inhuman treatment is akin to federally instigated and condoned child abuse.

We thank you for authoring this important piece of legislation and look forward to helping in any way we can to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. Atkins, Esq.
Deputy Executive Director

Nabil El-Ghoroury, PhD, CAE
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
David Connolly, The Connolly Group