Do not Fund the Proposed Increase in Immigration Enforcement

The House Appropriations Committee approved an increase in immigration enforcement funding that would:

- Increase Customs and Border Protection funding by $1.6 billion to fund the border wall, which in large part already exists. This will cause hardship to border communities and increase the number of deaths in the desert.
- Fund the hiring of 500 new Border Patrol agents, during a time when the agency cannot fill its already available positions. Two-thirds of recent applicants could not pass a polygraph intended to determine whether they have criminal histories or plan to use their position for coercive or abusive purposes.
- Increase Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) funding by more than $600 million, which includes money to hire 1,000 new ICE officers. An increase in officers will lead to an increase in the number of people targeted for enforcement, DACA recipients, people with U.S. Citizen family, asylum-seekers, and children.
- Increase ICE detention bed capacity to the highest number it has ever been, 44,000, while also planning to diminish national standards intended to ensure safe and humane detention conditions.

This budget plan would increase the number of immigrants in detention and waste billions on a costly and dangerous expansion of immigration enforcement and border militarization. Let your Congressional members know you do not want this approved if it reaches the House or Senate floor for vote. More background: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DGSpNHhprl

Ask for Fully Funded Refugee Aid and Resettlement in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

Trump’s FY18 budget request proposes a $218 million cut in refugee funding. This would significantly cut funds for refugee assistance overseas and resettlement in the United States, including a 31% cut to the Refugee and Entrant Assistance program, which funds the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). In addition to serving refugees, ORR also assists asylees, unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa recipients. This program provides services like employment training, housing assistance and case management. Reducing funds to ORR will negatively impact English as a Second Language training and support for schools serving refugee children and many other vital social services currently offered to vulnerable migrant populations through the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Background on History of Refugees in the US: http://www.rcusa.org/history/ Background on refugee services offered in US: http://www.rcusa.org/integration-of-refugees/ Your denomination and refugees: http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/refugees/ and https://www.presbyterianmission.org/we-choose-welcome/

Do not Support HR 3003 and 3004

H.R. 3003, the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, withholds federal funding to cities with community trust policies between migrant populations and local law enforcement. H.R. 3004, Kate’s Law, would expand the federal government’s ability to prosecute individuals for “illegal reentry” and impose even more severe penalties in these cases – even though more than 50% of all federal prosecutions are already for immigration offenses. Such proposals would target more than 600 counties, cities and states and reverse years of intentional, community-based policing efforts that are vital to public safety in
neighborhoods across the country. These bills have passed the House, let your representatives in both
the House and Senate know you oppose these bills that increase the criminal penalty for the movement
of people, force local law enforcement to hold migrants in jail without arrest warrants and erode trust
between local law enforcement and migrant communities. HR 3003:  
HR 3004:  
https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3004?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%223004%22%5D%7D&r=2  Information from the cities that
would be affected by these bills: http://www.citiesforaction.us/release_2017_06_28

Ask for the Fair Day in Court for Kids Act

Migrants in immigration deportation proceedings have the right to hire a lawyer but one will not be
provided for them by the government if they cannot afford attorney. This means that 80% of detained
migrants go through their entire court process without a lawyer. This is because immigration
proceedings are civil in nature but immigration proceedings can involve deprivation of liberty through
detention and often involve outcomes with life and death consequences. This fact was underscored in
2014 when unaccompanied children and families arriving from Central America were going to court
without legal counsel. Children were presenting themselves in immigration court and facing a
government judge and a government prosecutor and making their claims for asylum status and special
immigrant juvenile status on their own. Many were shocked at this circumstance and a bill was written
with versions in the House and Senate that would guarantee counsel to children and to some adults
coming to the U.S seeking protection. This bill needs to be renewed and passed during this session of
Congress. Let your representatives know that you wish them to sponsor or cosponsor and pass a
renewed version of the Fair Day in Court for Kids Act. Senate version:  
https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2540 House version:  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMtdK856KrU Denominational resources on Central American

Ask for Protection of the Beneficiaries of Humanitarian Immigration Relief in the U.S.

There are 800,000 young people lawfully present in the U.S. through the program, Deferred Action for
Childhood Arrivals (DACA). There are another 300,000 individuals lawfully present in the U.S. under
Temporary Protected Status (TPS). There are countless others who are in the U.S. under other forms of
deferred action or prosecutorial discretion. All of these programs are temporary and must be renewed
every year or year and a half. All of these programs have been supported by multiple administrations
regardless of political party because our nation has recognized the lack of eligibility to gain permanent
immigration status for some populations as a fault in our system during different periods of history.
Whether it be in response to a natural disaster, a person’s prolonged presence and community ties, a
population’s identity as a religious minority in their home country, this country has found a way to
temporarily give reprieve from deportation to many members of this nation who have now been in this
country for years as law-abiding community members with significant ties, contributions and, often,
generations of U.S. Citizen family. The President has announced that he will not end Deferred Action for
Childhood arrivals but he is getting pressure from some governors to change his mind. The Secretary of
Homeland Security, John Kelly, has indicated that he will begin to end the extension of Temporary
Protected Status to the beneficiaries of that humanitarian program. People with other forms of
deportation deferral are being denied renewal every day in Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices across the U.S. Their years in the U.S., their family ties, the humanitarian argument for their continued presence in the U.S., all is being ignored. There are members of your church or your presbytery who are at risk. Your child goes to school with or you go to work with someone who is at risk. These friends and family members need their stories to be lifted up this August recess. Government Report on Humanitarian Immigration Relief in the US: https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/RS20844.pdf Concern for the future of DACA: https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/dhss-kelly-tells-hispanic-caucus-daca-might-not-survive-court-challenge/2017/07/12/b1f19686-672b-11e7-9928-22d00a47778f_story.html?utm_term=.38fb46534557 Concern for the future of TPS: http://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article153907329.html