



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**June 19, 2018**

**Motion 15167**

**Proposed No. 2018-0285.1**

**Sponsors** Balducci, McDermott, Gossett,  
Kohl-Welles, Upthegrove and Dembowski

1           A MOTION opposing the United States Attorney General's  
2           immigration policy that is separating families crossing the  
3           United States border.

4           WHEREAS, On May 7, 2018, Attorney General Jeff Session announced that the  
5           Trump administration would greatly expand the practice of separating families who cross  
6           the United States-Mexico border illegally, and

7           WHEREAS, according to Reuters, the Department of Homeland Security has  
8           stated that the policy of separating families is intended to discourage people from  
9           attempting to cross the border, and

10          WHEREAS, in recent testimony before Congress, the United States Department  
11          of Homeland Security reported that 658 children were taken from their parents in just 13  
12          days in May, and

13          WHEREAS, according to the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project ("NWIRP"), as  
14          of June 7, 2018, up to 120 women who crossed the southwest United States border  
15          seeking asylum are detained at the Federal Detention Center in SeaTac, and

16          WHEREAS, many of those women were separated from their children shortly  
17          after being taken into custody and their children are being held at other government  
18          facilities, and

19          WHEREAS, the women NWIRP spoke with were charged with misdemeanors

20 and sentenced to time served, but continue to be held in the federal detention center and  
21 have not been allowed to reunite with their children as their asylum claims are processed,  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, NWIRP reports that federal agents have refused to tell the mothers  
24 where their children are, and

25 WHEREAS, the Seattle Times reports that Immigration Customs Enforcement  
26 has been placing children separated from their parents in facilities and foster homes  
27 across the country and, according to the Washington State Attorney General's office, the  
28 state has located at least six children within Washington whose parents are being held in  
29 federal detention, and

30 WHEREAS, the Seattle office of Kids in Need of Defense stated that the  
31 organization has seen eight children, ranging in age from 12 to 17, being housed at  
32 facilities in King and Pierce counties for children in the custody of the Office of Refugee  
33 Resettlement, and

34 WHEREAS, reports from organizations providing care for these children have  
35 reported signs of "separation trauma," such as inability to sleep, nightmares, crying and  
36 begging for their parents, or physical pain, and

37 WHEREAS, families should be kept together for the health and well-being of  
38 both children and parents and the American Academy of Pediatrics has emphasized  
39 separating children from their parents can cause irreparable harm, and

40 WHEREAS, federal laws and international treaties allow people to obtain asylum  
41 if they have a legitimate fear of persecution at home and, according to NWIRP, the  
42 women they contacted who are being held in SeaTac have expressed fear of returning to

43 their home countries, and

44 WHEREAS, on June 7, 2018, the United States House of Representatives  
45 introduced House Resolution 927 to condemn the policy of separating children from their  
46 parents at the border, and

47 WHEREAS, on June 7, 2018, the United States Senate introduced the Keep  
48 Families Together Act, S.3036, which would keep immigrant families together by  
49 preventing the Department of Homeland Security from taking children from their parents  
50 at the border, and

51 WHEREAS, on February 28, 2018, the United States Senate also introduced the  
52 Fair Day in Court for Kids Act, S.2468, which would provide access to counsel for  
53 unaccompanied immigrant children and youth, and

54 WHEREAS, the 2018 King County federal legislative agenda urged congress to:  
55 "Address immigration reform in a comprehensive manner that protects the legal status of  
56 DACA recipients, ensures that all residents feel secure to call on our public safety  
57 officers for help, and keeps King County a welcoming place for all," and

58 WHEREAS, on June 9, 2018, King County Executive Dow Constantine stated  
59 that he will be working with King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg to block charter  
60 planes carrying asylum-sceckers bound for the detention center from using King County  
61 International Airport;

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

63 The council:

64 A. Opposes the Trump administration's policy of separating families at the  
65 United States border;

66 B. Recognizes that separating children from their parents may inflict irreversible  
67 damage to the health of the children that could have a lifetime of consequences;

68 C. Calls on the county's federal delegation to add pressure on the Trump  
69 Administration to immediately release all of the immigrants to be reunited with their  
70 children and give them access to attorneys to quickly process their asylum claims.

71 D. Supports the United States Senate introduced Keep Families Together Act,  
72 S.3036, and Fair Day in Court for Kids Act, S.2468, and calls on the state's federal  
73 delegation to also support the bills; and

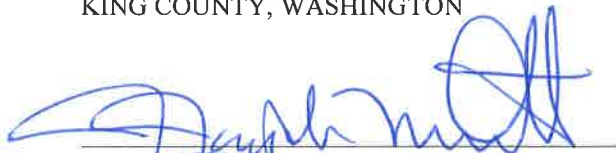
74 E. Supports the appropriate use of county resources and authority to limit

75 assistance provided and to pressure the Trump administration to stop the practice of  
76 separating children from their families at the border.  
77

Motion 15167 was introduced on 6/18/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 6/18/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Ms. Kohl-Welles

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



**Attachments:** None