

1 [Supporting United States Senate Bill 3036 (Feinstein) - Keep Families Together Act]

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3 **Resolution declaring support for United States Senate Bill 3036, the Keep Families**  
4 **Together Act, authored by Senator Feinstein, which prohibits an officer of a designated**  
5 **agency from removing a child from his or her parent or legal guardian, at or near the**  
6 **port of entry on the United States border.**

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8 WHEREAS, On April 6, 2018, United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions released  
9 an official memorandum and directive for federal prosecutors along the southwest border  
10 entitled, “Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a)”; and

11 WHEREAS, The memorandum outlines warnings of strict policies and harsh treatments  
12 to deter prospective immigrants from attempting to cross the southern border with their  
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, Under this policy, adults suspected of crossing the United States border  
15 illegally are detained in federal facilities or detention centers to await prosecution; and

16 WHEREAS, Under this policy, if it is found that children are in accompaniment, they are  
17 forcibly and cruelly separated from their parents or guardians and placed in separate  
18 detention centers run by the Office of Refugee Resettlement; and

19 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Homeland Security, 2,342  
20 children have been separated from their parents and/or legal guardians after crossing the  
21 Southern United States Board since early May 2018; and

22 WHEREAS, There is a severe lack of transparency and information about how  
23 Customs and Border Protection physically tears children from their parents’ arms, how or  
24 whether parents are notified or kept updated on their children’s conditions, or whether parents  
25 and children are able to communicate; and

1           WHEREAS, According to the Texas Civil Rights Project, multiple parents reported that  
2 after being traumatically separated from their children, they were not given any basic  
3 information about where their children would go or for how long they would be apart; and

4           WHEREAS, This terrifying experience of being separated from one’s child or one’s  
5 parent is traumatic and can lead to long-term physical and mental distress; and

6           WHEREAS, A chilling report revealed a father took his own life after the strain of being  
7 separated from his three-year-old son and family after being detained in Texas; and

8           WHEREAS, The individuals and families who attempt to cross the United States border  
9 to seek specialized relief and obtain asylum from life-threatening violence and persecution  
10 experienced in home nations are incredibly vulnerable; and

11           WHEREAS, Further stress is inflicted on young children when they are forcibly  
12 removed from their parents by federal law enforcement agents and such practices are  
13 traumatizing, immoral, and unconscionable; and

14           WHEREAS, The High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, Zeid  
15 Ra’ad Al Hussein, has referred to family separation as a “cruel practice” and has stated that  
16 no nation should use family separation as a deterrent in the context of immigration; and

17           WHEREAS, These horrifying, inhumane, vicious practices completely violate American  
18 values and are fundamentally unacceptable under the nation’s ethics and global reputation as  
19 a safe haven for immigrants; and

20           WHEREAS, San Francisco’s representatives in Congress, including Senator Dianne  
21 Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi have all condemned  
22 the Trump administration’s policy of separating families at the United States border; and

23           WHEREAS, Former United States First Ladies Rosalynn Carter, Hillary Clinton, Laura  
24 Bush, and Michelle Obama, have all condemned the Trump administration’s policy; and  
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1           WHEREAS, This destructive policy is not required under any law at any level of  
2 government in the United States; and

3           WHEREAS, This policy is unique to the Trump administration, and current officials,  
4 including United States President Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Department of  
5 Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, can choose to end this practice, reunite  
6 families, and release them together from detention facilities at any time; and

7           WHEREAS, On Thursday, June 7th, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced United  
8 States Senate Bill 3036 (S. 3036), the Keep Families Together Act; and

9           WHEREAS, This bill was drafted in consultation with the American Academy of  
10 Pediatrics to ensure the protection and welfare of children and their families; and

11           WHEREAS, Senator Dianne Feinstein has gained the support of 48 other Senators  
12 agree that the practice of ripping children from their families is inhumane, immoral, and un-  
13 American, including Senator Kamala Harris; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States  
15 Senate to approve Senator Feinstein’s S. 3036, the Keep Families Together Act, to end the  
16 Trump Administration’s callous policy, protect the well-being of children, reunite families, and  
17 uphold American principles, values, and ideals.

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