


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 27, 2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 18-0002-S78
Assignment No: 18-06-0603

SUBJECT: Resolutions to SUPPORT any acts that will expedite the Keep Families Together Act.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Martinez – Cedillo – Price) to include in the City’s 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT for any action that will expedite the Keep Families Together Act (Feinstein).

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Martinez – Cedillo – Price), introduced June 20, 2018, advises that on June 12, 2018 the City Council introduced a resolution to include in its 2018-19 Federal Legislative Program support for the Keep Families Together Act (Feinstein). On June 20, 2018, President Trump suggested that he would sign an executive action to end the family separation crisis, the details of which were not made public. The family separation crisis has consumed the nation for days and has exposed intolerance and anti-immigration sentiment fueled by a divisive federal administration.

The Resolution further advises that the situation is being used as a bargaining chip for immigration reform policy and despite all forty seven Senate Democrats and both Independents joining as cosponsors to the Keep Families Together Act, not one Republican member has joined. It is imperative that the federal government act in an expeditious matter to stop separations from occurring and it is vital that the City of Los Angeles support any and all actions that would help expedite the passage of the Keep Families Together Act.

The Resolution recommends that the City support any action that would expedite the Keep Families Together Act (Feinstein).

BACKGROUND

On April 6, 2018, the Office of the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, released a memorandum titled “Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a),” that directed United States Attorney’s Offices along the Southwest Border to immediately adopt a zero-tolerance policy for migrants detained having made illegal entry into the United States. This policy resulted in the separation of over 2,300 minors from their accompanying guardians since the beginning of the zero-tolerance policy enforcement in May 2018.

On June 20, 2018, President Trump signed an executive order titled “Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation” which directs DHS to detain families together rather than remove children from their guardians. The executive order does not address the issue of families that were separated prior to the executive order, requiring further legislative or administrative action.

The Keep Families Together Act would prohibit designated federal agencies from removing a child from their legal guardian within 100 miles of the United States border except in cases determined necessary for

the safety or welfare of the child. In the case that family separations are necessary, the bill directs the DHS to document the reason and evidence for the separation. The bill also requires the development of training and guidance for agents and officers that emphasizes the best interests of the child, childhood trauma, attachment, and child development. Additionally, the Keep Families Together Act would direct DHS to create materials in several languages which would detail how separated parents may find their children.

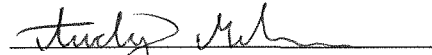
The bill has been introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The bill will be heard in the committee at the discretion of the committee chairman and, subject to approval, move to consideration of the House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None

BILL STATUS

06/07/18	Introduced
06/07/18	Read twice and referred to Committee on the Judiciary


Andy Galan
Analyst

Attachments: 1. Resolution (Martinez – Cedillo – Price)

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2018 the City Council introduced a Resolution to include in its 2018-19 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Keep Families Together Act (Feinstein), inasmuch as it would prohibit an agent or officer of the Department of Homeland Security from moving a child from his or her parent or legal guardian, at or near a United States border or port of entry; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of June 20, 2018 President Trump suggested that he would sign an executive action to end the family separation crisis, in an attempt to be preemptive from any legislative action, though he did not say what exactly he would sign nor what it would entail; and

WHEREAS, this crisis has consumed the nation for days as searing pictures and audio of young migrant children crying after being separated from their parents after crossing the border from Mexico have been released, exposing these historic times of intolerance and anti-immigration sentiment fueled by an aggressive and divisive federal administration; and

WHEREAS, House legislation is using this inhumane and cruel situation as a bargaining chip for a sweeping immigration reform policy; and

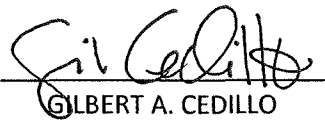
WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Keep Families Together Act (Feinstein) currently has all 47 Democrats and both Independents as cosponsors, but not one Republican member to have signed on; and

WHEREAS, it is absolutely imperative that the government must act in an expeditious matter to stop immediate separations that are occurring; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important for the City of Los Angeles support any and all actions that would help expedite the passage of the Keep Families Together Act (Feinstein); and

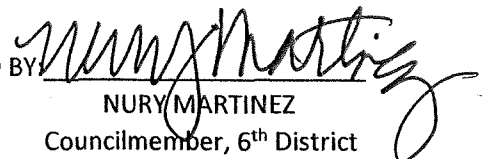
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-18 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for any fast-tracked or expeditious action that may augment or help the passage of the Keep Families Together Act (Feinstein). The City of Los Angeles will continue to stand with families, and push for laws that protect our children and champion human rights.

CO-PRESENTED BY:


GILBERT A. CEDILLO

Councilmember, 1st District

CO-PRESENTED BY:


NURY MARTINEZ

Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY:


ALL COUNCIL

JUN 20 2018