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COMMITTEES
CHAIR: AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
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June 6, 2018

RE: Item G.2: HR 5950; S2937 (Representative Roybal-Allard and Senator Smith) Humane Enforcement and Legal Protections for (HELP) Separated Children Act.

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Rules Committee Members,

In recent months, it has become clear that the White House has implemented a deliberate strategy to strike fear into the community with a cruel directive to separate families at the border seeking refuge in our country like millions of families that have previously arrived on our welcoming shores. With the federal administration directing immigration enforcement officers to rip babies and young children from the arms of their mothers and fathers, it is imperative that we speak in solidarity with those families. It is in that spirit that I urge you to support Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco's memorandum in support of the Help Separated Children Act and oppose the zero-tolerance policy currently being enforced by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

We have the obligation to protect families and send a message that it is immoral to separate children from their parents, all of whom are fleeing poverty, corruption, political persecution and suffering. Many of the residents today who make up our diverse community in San José are refugees themselves and have experienced the same struggle. Whether these refugees were fleeing from Vietnam, Eastern Europe, Central America or Africa, they escaped persecution to make a better life for themselves here in San José. Yet, today, we have families hoping to seek refuge just to find themselves involved in a new nightmare as they are separated and housed in inhumane conditions. This is not only un-American, but it is not what San José represents. This is not the moment for us to be silent. Let us work together to change the fate of these families and support the compassionate policy of keeping families together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ash Kalra'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Ash' and last name 'Kalra' clearly distinguishable.

Ash Kalra
State Assemblymember, 27th District
California Legislature