



# COUNTY OF YOLO

## Board of Supervisors

District 1, **Oscar Villegas**  
District 2, **Don Saylor**  
District 3, **Matt Rexroad**  
District 4, **Jim Provenza**  
District 5, **Duane Chamberlain**

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(530) 666-8195 • FAX (530) 666-8193  
www.yolocounty.org

County Administrator, **Patrick S. Blacklock**  
Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

August 23, 2018

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kamala Harris  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman John Garamendi  
2438 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Doris Matsui  
2311 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

### **RE: Protecting Children & Keeping Families Together**

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris, Congressman Garamendi, and Congresswoman Matsui:

On behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, I thank you for your support of Senate Bill 3036, “Keep Families Together Act”, and its corresponding House Resolution 6135. Together, these bills prioritize family unity, set limitations on the separation of families, and establish requirements for reporting and tracking of children separated from a parent or legal guardian.

On July 24, 2018 the Yolo County Board of Supervisors adopted the resolution, “Yolo County a Safe & Welcoming Place for All: Protecting Children and Keeping Families Together” (please see attached resolution). By approving this resolution, our Board joins countless other municipalities and school districts across the nation in rejecting the current Administration’s harmful family separations under a draconian and morally abhorrent policy. These unjust policies and practices created an environment where people who are undocumented have no certainty of family reunification, timely process, or fair adjudication. This is not acceptable.

The effects of “zero tolerance” immigration directives and the subsequent family separations have led to disastrous results. More than 3,000 children have been separated from their parents. While many have subsequently been reunited, unfortunately some continue to be separated. Shelters are at or near capacity. There are reports that children are experiencing severe separation trauma and are begging for their parents. This trauma will lead to negative health effects. Studies supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association indicate lifelong physical and mental health consequences for both the children and the parents. As such, we urge you to take all possible steps to reunify affected families and ensure such separation practices cease.

By adopting our resolution, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors acted on our values and our understanding of the strength immigrants bring to our local community and economy. Our cities, schools and institutions of higher learning are home to thousands of international students, faculty, scholars, documented and undocumented immigrants, working families and children of diverse backgrounds. It is for these reasons that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors have voted to keep our community safe and welcoming for all, as well as to protect children and keep

families together. By recognizing Yolo County as a safe and welcoming place for all, we are working together to ensure that all residents in our county, regardless of immigration status, have the opportunity to live in healthy, safe communities, have access to critical services, protection and support. We are taking action to uphold these values by creating an interfaith forum on immigration policies, examining legal resources to support Yolo County residents with immigration issues, and identifying possible resources to augment existing County legal representation through the Public Defender's office. As a civic leader in our community, we trust you will support us in these efforts.

We know that separation breeds fear and alienation in immigrant communities, leading to avoidance of contact with government agencies and personnel, which can negatively impact public health and safety. In Yolo County, we are working together to identify resources for the many immigrants who call our County home, but we cannot do this alone. We thank you for your support of Senate Bill 3036, "Keep Families Together Act" and House Resolution 6135 and urge your office to continue to engage in actions that further support the values of protecting children and the reunification of families.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. Please contact Alexander Tengolics in the County Administrator's Office at (530)666-8068 or [alexander.tengolics@yolocounty.org](mailto:alexander.tengolics@yolocounty.org) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar Villegas", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Oscar Villegas  
Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

**FILED**

AUG 06 2018

BY Julie Rando  
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Resolution No. 18-92

**RESOLUTION OF THE YOLO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Yolo County, a Safe and Welcoming Place for All: Protecting Children and  
Keeping Families Together**

**WHEREAS**, The Yolo County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in March 2017 that affirmed its commitment to be a safe, tolerant and welcoming place and pledged to monitor and take appropriate action to ensure family unity, community security, respect, due process and support for all individuals in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, The current administration has taken action to impose an unjust "zero-tolerance" policy for undocumented immigrants who cross the border into the United States and separated families with no certainty of reunification, timely process or fair adjudication; and

**WHEREAS**, More than 3,000 children have been separated from their parents in the last three months and shelters are at or near capacity, prompting federal officials to contemplate housing children at military bases and tent camps; and

**WHEREAS**, Media report from the shelters that children are experiencing severe separation trauma and are begging for their parents; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Academy of Pediatrics says separating children from their parents can cause lifelong health consequences and experts at the American Psychological Association warn that affected children and parents face a mental health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County, its cities, schools and institutions of higher learning are home to thousands of international students, faculty, scholars, documented and undocumented immigrants, working families and children of diverse backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County values the strength families bring to our local economy, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the important role parents play in the security and developmental growth of infants and children; and

**WHEREAS**, A 2018 study by the conservative Cato Institute concludes undocumented immigrants are considerably less likely to commit crime than native-born citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Programs that use alternatives to detention have demonstrated that detention is not necessary to get immigrants to show up at their asylum hearings; and

**WHEREAS**, Many of these families are fleeing violence in their home countries, family separation is violence in another form and it is inhumane to punish immigrants for seeking safety and a right to asylum through a fair process; and

**WHEREAS**, Separation breeds fear and alienation in immigration communities, leading to avoidance of contact with government agencies and personnel, with impacts on public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Yolo County's 2016-19 strategic plan identifies thriving residents as a core goal and pledges to create and promote healthy, safe communities by providing critical services, protection and support for all its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors opposes current practices that separate children and parents/adults, calls for an immediate end to the separation of children and families and pledges to:

- Submit letters to federal officials and elected representatives, including the current administration, U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services, U.S. Health and Human Services, Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris, Congresswoman Matsui and Congressman Garamendi to reject the incarceration of children;
- Commit to legislative action to advocate for sensible immigration policies that uphold the U.S. Constitution;
- Call on interfaith leaders in Yolo County to create a forum on immigration policies;
- Examine legal resources to support Yolo County residents with immigration issues;
- Look into public defender resources allocated toward immigration relief for Yolo County residents.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo this 24th day of July, 2018 by the following vote:

**AYES: Saylor, Provenza, Villegas.**

**NOES: Rexroad, Chamberlain.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

  
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Oscar Villegas, Chair  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Attest  
Julie Dachtler, Deputy Clerk  
Board of Supervisors.

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy (Seal)



Approved as to Form:

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Philip J. Pogledich, County Counsel