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The International Pediatric Association, devoted to the well-being of children across the globe and composed of 169 national, regional and subspecialty pediatric societies representing over one million pediatricians, caring for more than one billion children, issues the following declaration:

Declaration of the international pediatric association on the conditions of child detention facilities at the borders of the United States Of America

All countries have a moral and legal obligation to protect children, both within their country as well as those immigrants fleeing danger elsewhere. The future of the world rests on this obligation.

Therefore:

The International Pediatric Association (IPA), representing over one million pediatricians in 149 nations, hereby expresses our strong opposition to the practices employed by the government of the United States of America that result in the detention of children at United States borders. The detention and separation of children from their families, and the deplorable and inhumane conditions these children are subjected to, are immoral, and ignore basic human rights.

The failure to provide basic care, health care, medicine, adequate nutrition, supervision, access to necessary hygiene, translators, and legal assistance brings irreparable harm to these children. Such conditions will cause profound and long-lasting emotional and physical damage to children and adolescents.

The IPA calls on the United States of America to take immediate action to protect child's rights and cease detention of children under such conditions. We call on all of our members to urge the US Government to end these abusive practices, and to urge their governments to promote and advocate for the protection of all children, including immigrant children seeking to enter other countries.

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On behalf of IPA Executive and Standing Committee

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