

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the leaders, faculty, and students of America's public health schools and programs, I write in strong opposition to your Administration's policy of separating family members seeking asylum at the Mexican border. No legal or regulatory rationale for this practice makes it justifiable, humane, or right. It is an abhorrent practice that violates both the human rights of the individuals directly involved and the values of the American people.

The practice of separating families, including infant children from their mothers, rightly embarrasses America and its citizens in the eyes of the world. It makes us look inhumane and is a repudiation of the promise of America as a society that cherishes families, human rights, and due process.

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) condemns the practice of dividing families seeking asylum in America and calls on you and your Administration to halt the practice immediately.

ASPPH is a 501c3 membership organization representing 110 accredited public health schools and programs. Our mission is to transform public health by strengthening and promoting the education, research, service, and practice activities in academic public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Petersen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donna Petersen ScD, MHS, CPH
Chair, Board of Directors
ASPPH

Cc: The Honorable Jeff Session, Attorney General of the United States
The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security