

Ryan's Draconian DACA Bill Does Not End Family Separation.

Claims that bill ends family separation are false.

The Freedom Caucus and House moderates have abandoned efforts to pass the Dream Act and are instead working on a Frankenstein immigration bill that would provide only limited legal protection to DACA-eligible individuals and place thousands of children in jail for extended periods of time.

This bill would not end family separation. For some children, the bill would result in long-term incarceration **with even fewer standards for their care and well-being than are currently in place.** For others, it would result in near immediate return to the very life-threatening conditions they are fleeing.

As long as Trump and Sessions [choose](#) to prosecute 100% of parents, their kids will still be taken away from them. There's no provision in the bill ending family separation due to these prosecutions. When parents are arrested, taken to court, and in some cases sent to federal prison, **their kids cannot go with them and so the kids will still be separated.** Whether it's 3 days, 3 weeks, or 3 months, ripping kids away from their parents is [traumatizing](#) and [immoral](#) and there is no "fix" to this self-created problem.

After the parents are released from criminal jail, many parents go to immigration jail. This bill would override current law to allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain kids in immigration jail run by private prison companies for months or years with their parents. While some parents and kids might eventually be detained together, many parents and kids would remain separated.

Long-term detention of mothers and children is not the solution to the trauma caused by family separation. There are more humane and cost efficient alternatives that have proven effective. The [Family Case Management Program](#) which President Trump terminated, allows families to be released together and monitored by caseworkers. Despite claims that families won't show up for court, the program has a 99% success rate of court attendance.

This draconian "compromise" bill guts existing law and further exacerbates the child welfare crisis on the border:

- **Keeps Children in Detention For Longer Periods of Time.** This bill eliminates the minimum standards of custody for children under a settlement agreement (Flores). The government entered into the agreement in 1997 after advocates sued the government for its treatment of children in detention. Flores does not address family separation. Flores does include protections against long-term detention. *This bill would allow children can be kept in government detention centers for longer periods of time in jail-like hardened conditions without basic standards for their care or wellbeing. The bill does not require that families and children be placed together. Many families would remain separated under this bill.*
- **Makes it Easier to Deport More Children More Quickly.** In 2000, Congress unanimously passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which included a review process for children from countries that don't border the United States (including Central America) to ensure that they receive safety screenings and aren't returned to dangerous - and sometimes deadly - situations. This Republican bill eliminates that process and would allow DHS to quickly deport children without fully considering their asylum claims. In 2018, Honduras ranked first in the world for child homicides, El Salvador ranked third and Guatemala fourth. *The changes would speed up the deportation of all children who came by themselves or were taken from their parents at the border - including those coming from some of the most dangerous countries on earth.*
- **Shrinks the Number of Asylum Seekers By Making it More Difficult to Apply.** This bill heightens the "credible fear" standard and evidentiary burden of proof required for individuals to apply for asylum. In the late 1990s, Democrats and Republicans set up a process to ensure the United States wouldn't deport adults or children with legitimate claims to asylum back home to die. The process recognizes parents and children seeking asylum need time to prepare their cases. They often travel hundreds of miles and don't have all the evidence they need to prove their case the moment they step foot in the

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United States. By changing the law to facilitate the quick deportations of asylum seekers and make it harder to apply for asylum, parents and children who could articulate a genuine fear of persecution will be deported without the chance to collect evidence or present witnesses before a judge.

- **Eliminates Special Protections for Children.** The bill would terminate special protections for children in jail including suitable living conditions, routine medical care and emergency health services, recreation time and counseling services necessary for the wellbeing and healthy development of any child. The bill would also prohibit any government funding for counsel for children- leaving many small children without a voice in the courtroom.