

## **San Mateo County Democratic Party Resolution Against the Illegal Pushbacks, Detention and Ill-Treatment of Asylum-Seekers at the Southern Border**

**WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration continues to flagrantly violate international law, which prohibits states from returning or turning away people to countries where their life or freedom would be threatened, by deliberately adopting immigration policies with routine pushbacks of asylum-seekers at the US-Mexico border and by threatening them with indefinite detention and family separation to force these legal asylum-seekers to return to situations of horrific human rights violations, and

**WHEREAS**, these deliberately adopted immigration policies by executive order, including the severe mental anguish caused by family separations, taking thousands of children from their parents – hundreds of whom likely will remain forever lost, to coerce the parents to give up their claims and to deter other asylum-seekers, has caused disastrous trauma to thousands of legal asylum-seeking refugees along the southern border, and

**WHEREAS**, the illegal and unconscionable Administration policies of indefinite detention, family separation, inhumane treatment and living conditions, deportation without due process, untrained staff, inadequate medical care, and lack of care for the children arguably rises to the level of torture,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the San Mateo County Democratic Party thanks our members of Congress, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Kamala Harris, and Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, for effectively drawing public attention to these issues and for their past legislative and oversight efforts to combat these policies, and calls on them to expand their efforts, now with a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, for greater Congressional oversight of Department of Homeland Security agencies to: curtail executive overreach, especially pushbacks at the border and the separation and indefinite detention of asylum-seekers; demand regular reports from DHS ensuring the prompt and proper processing of all individuals seeking asylum; increase funding for immigration judges and officers; decline to fund ICE's expansion of immigration detention, and to pass legislation banning the separation and/or detention of families with children and ensuring the right to judicial review and due process in case of detention, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the San Mateo County Democratic Party, strongly believing that California must assume its responsibility in providing humanitarian assistance that may be required by persons on their territory, thanks our state representatives, Senators Jerry Hill and Scott Wiener, and Assemblymembers Kevin Mullin, Phil Ting and Marc Berman, for their previous support and asks them to call for a new report on the situation at the California border, to determine the status of asylum-seeking families and recommend the resources needed for the care and counseling for children while they are in California detention centers and after they are released, especially those separated from their parents.

Brigid O'Farrell, District 3

Ashleigh Evans, District 1

February 5, 2018