

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 07, 2023

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CARECEN SF DEMANDS THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION NOT BRING BACK FAMILY DETENTION AT ICE CENTERS

Washington, DC – March 07, 2023, a New York Times [report today](#) exposes how the Biden Administration is said to “turn to increasingly restrictive measures as his administration prepares for the end of Title 42” and is now considering bringing back detaining entire families in ICE detention centers when they seek asylum at the U.S./Mexico border.

CARECEN SF is horrified to hear the Biden administration is considering a return to the use of family detention. A humanitarian crisis requires a humanitarian response – not a return to detaining families in ICE detention centers. CARECEN SF lawyers provided legal help to families detained under Trump and Obama, and saw children malnourished in custody, crying in pain due to lack of appropriate medical attention, and emotionally scarred by seeing their parents subjugated and dehumanized. The solution is simple – give families seeking protection paperwork advising them to go to court and seek asylum. Detention is a waste of money and lives. Let's be clear, ICE is in the business of enforcement and removal, not child-centered humanitarian responses. Even Biden recognized that when he shut down family detention facilities at the beginning of his term. To resurrect family detention now is cruel and unnecessary, and we will not stay silent. We must choose people over politics.

We have fought long and hard to stop previous administrations like Trump's and Obama's to stop the practice of caging families and we will not stop now. The fact that the Biden Administration is considering this move after all the promises and claims Biden made while on the campaign trail demonstrate that he is caving in to the far right's need to scapegoat people seeking safety for the ailments of the country. Biden appears to want to score political points in his search for reelection. Yet the truth remains; caging families is a cruel and inhumane practice, which the entire world recognizes. We demand the Biden administration change course and stand up to hate and ignorance and create real answers for people who are migrating, seeking asylum and families escaping towards a better life. It is possible to create a just and equitable world. We won't stop demanding and fighting for it.

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CARECEN SF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area — building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice. Rooted in its cultural strengths and inspired by the Central American justice struggles, CARECEN SF envisions our diverse immigrant community as thriving; where families prosper, build effective community institutions, and participate confidently in civic life. Learn more about our history and work at www.carecensf.org.