Key Campaign Messages
#DefundHate

→ Our Values

● No matter where someone came from or how they arrived to the United States, their life is of value and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.
● Every person has the right to move and live freely, in community and with their family, without fear of being separated from their loved ones or displaced from their home.
● We believe that we all do better when everyone has the opportunity to succeed, which means we believe in investing in strong families and communities by using tax dollars to support critical education, housing, nutrition and health care programs.

→ The Problems

CBP and ICE

● ICE and CBP regularly lie, actively hide information from the public, and retaliate against anyone who speaks out. Despite this, Trump is seeking to increase each agency’s budget by nearly 20 percent.
● The alarming death toll in CBP and ICE custody underscores that the immigration enforcement system is plagued by egregiously poor conditions, a lack of accountability and a culture of violence that results in system-wide abuses, including death.
● ICE and CBP operate with near impunity and collaborate with local law enforcement to carry out discriminatory deportation programs.
● Trump’s budget contains funding to hire 500 more CBP agents and 1,000 more ICE agents, continuing an extreme expansion of the deportation force which has already grown from 2,710 agents in FY 2003 to 7,995 agents in FY 2016.

Immigration Detention

● Immigration detention is the unjust practice of incarcerating immigrants while they await a decision on their immigration status or potential deportation.
● For the past three decades, the government has put hundreds of thousands of immigrants behind bars at a massive human, financial and moral cost. Now, an already oppressive, inhumane and deadly system of detention has become even bigger, less transparent and less accountable under an explicitly anti-immigrant and racist administration.
● Trump’s budget massively increases immigration detention to over 51,000 people in detention every day. This means locking up the equivalent of the entire population of New Orleans over the course of a year.

The Wall and Border Militarization

● The wall is a hateful symbol of exclusion that will further militarize border communities, not only with a physical structure but also with increased surveillance technology.
● Trump’s budget seeks a whopping $1.6 billion to build more of the border wall, and another billion for military hardware and surveillance technology.
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**Discriminatory Bans Against Refugees and Muslims**
- Trump’s executive order suspending refugee resettlement and banning individuals from six Muslim-majority countries is just one part of this administration’s multi-tiered attempt to discriminate against people based on their faith, where they are from, and the color of their skin.
- Trump is implementing his Refugee and Muslim ban in multiple ways, including through his budget request. Congress must reject the cuts that he has proposed to dismantle the refugee resettlement program, and must make clear that no funds are to be used to create a Muslim registry or implement a “backdoor” Muslim ban through policies that appear to increase vetting but in actuality discriminate and keep people out.

**Criminal Prosecutions**
- Attorney General Sessions has doubled down on a prosecution and incarceration apparatus that abandons basic fairness and human rights, criminalizes people at large, exacerbates the failings of the U.S. “drug war,” and destroys families and communities.
- Attorney General Sessions is dangerously inflating an already ballooning system -- last year immigration prosecutions comprised 52 percent of all federal prosecutions.
- Trump’s budget asks for 70 additional prosecutors, which will only exacerbate the injustices of the system and the number of people impacted.

**Attacks Against Sanctuary Cities**
- Through the budget process, the Trump administration is attempting to rewrite federal law to force state and local law enforcement agencies to honor unconstitutional ICE detainer requests.

→ **Part of the Solution: Defund**
- Trump wants to use your tax dollars to finance his anti-immigrant agenda in the government’s fiscal year 2018 budget, all while making devastating cuts to things like health and education that are critical to healthy, thriving communities.
- Money is one of the only barriers to Trump’s DHS fully enacting its hate-fueled detention and deportation regime. Stopping the flow of money is critical to stopping Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda.
- It’s time to stop wasting taxpayer dollars on the abusive and deadly immigration enforcement system; the lives of our loved ones and our collective future are at stake.

→ **Take Action**
- For too long, our representatives have said they care about our communities while simultaneously funding aggressive immigration enforcement and deadly immigration jails. They must be held accountable to keep their promises and stand with the immigrant community.
- Our elected officials must divest in agencies that tear apart our families and terrorize our communities.
- Congress can and should act as a check on Trump’s runaway deportation machine, starting with this budget. We want our tax dollars used to strengthen our families and communities by investing in education, housing, nutrition and health care programs that provide opportunity and increase well-being.
- We call on our members of Congress to say no and vote against wasting taxpayer dollars on an abusive and deadly immigration enforcement system.