

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND
JANICE HAHN

July 3, 2018

Legal Aid for Children and Families Separated at the Border

The children that have been separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border are facing many challenges, including having to navigate the complicated immigration legal system of the United States. Children as young as three have been served notices to appear in immigration court for their own deportation proceedings. These children are not provided legal representation, only a list of legal services organizations that may offer assistance. In many cases, young children may be unaware of the reasons why they are fleeing their home countries and are unable to justify asylum claims in court proceedings. It is unconscionable that these children are expected to advocate for themselves in legal proceedings, especially after enduring the horrific trauma of being separated from their parents.

In 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved an allocation of \$3 million to the LA Justice Fund, a public-private partnership between the County of

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Los Angeles (County), the City of Los Angeles, and philanthropic organizations to provide legal representation to immigrants facing deportation.

It is believed that a great number, and perhaps even a majority, of the thousands of children who have been separated from their families have family ties in Los Angeles County. This moral crisis has created a need to expand coverage under the LA Justice Fund to include these children who are in dire need of legal defense.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that, in order to meet the social needs of the population of Los Angeles County, the Board direct and delegate authority to the Interim Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, in consultation with County Counsel and the Department of Children and Family Services, to amend the LA Justice Fund agreement immediately to allow for the provision of legal representation specifically for children who have been separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border and their respective parents or sponsors who have ties in Los Angeles County.

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HLS: jv