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May 8, 2019

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2004

Dear Representative Brown:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we are pleased to support the Alternatives to Detention Act of 2019 (H.R. 532).

It is unconscionable that hundreds of immigrant children remain separated from their parents, confined to cages while the administration seeks legal authority to detain even more children indefinitely. Children should not be detained while awaiting action on their cases, nor should trafficking victims, pregnant women, or people with disabilities. Families belong together.

H.R. 532 is practical first step. It would require the Department of Homeland Security to use alternatives to detention for children and other vulnerable immigrant populations. Families could stay together while awaiting action on their cases, housed in community-based settings, and continue to check in regularly with their caseworkers.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to end the practice of separating children from their parents and confining them to cages.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association