



July 31, 2019

Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we strongly urge you to oppose the Secure and Protect Act of 2019 (S. 1494) because it would undermine vital protections for immigrant children and their families and allow prolonged detention of children, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis on our nation's Southern border. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

Specifically, we oppose S. 1494 because it would:

- Negate protections in the *Flores* settlement agreement that has set the standard for detention, release, and treatment of migrant children for over two decades
- Allow children as young as toddlers to be detained for as long as 100 days—five times the length of time permitted under current law
- Eliminate critical screenings that identify children who are victims of trafficking
- Severely limit applications for asylum from citizens of certain countries
- Deny immigrants access to programs previously authorized by Congress
- Allow federal officials to second guess decisions made by state judges

For all these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose S. 1494. Instead of weakening protections for children and families in the face of the current humanitarian crisis, Congress should strengthen those protections.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association