

## Split families in limbo amid Trump immigration chaos

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The <u>Trump</u> administration is calling for the expanded use of family detention for immigrant parents and children who are stopped along the U.S. -Mexico border, a move decried by advocates as a cruel and ineffective attempt to deter families from coming to the United States. "Your loved ones have not died in vain", he told the *angel families*.

President <u>Donald Trump</u> listens during an event on <u>immigration</u> alongside family members affected by crime committed by undocumented immigrants, at the South Court Auditorium in the White House complex, June 22, 2018, in Washington.

Following intense domestic and global condemnation, Trump on Wednesday signed an order ending his administration's practice of separation of children from their families while parents were being prosecuted for crossing the border illegally.

"There has been no change to the department's <u>zero tolerance policy</u> to prosecute adults who cross our border illegally instead of claiming asylum at any port of entry at the border, "spokeswoman Sara Isgur Flores said. "The word you have to think about is 'permanently, "Trump said Friday.

Trump backed up his complaint with the unsupported claim that undocumented immigrants are <u>more</u> risky than the general population and shared statistics on crimes committed by undocumented immigrants without any context.

However, studies have shown that undocumented immigrants are less likely to commit a crime in the US than native-born citizens, including one published by the libertarian <u>CATO Institute</u> this year. CNN and MSNBC cut their coverage of the White House event shortly after Trump accused the media of "overlooking" the families.

"Tens of thousands of people from impoverished, violence-stricken Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador and parts of Mexico have crossed the USA border since past year requesting asylum". It was widely published, ending up on newspaper front pages.

It's not clear exactly how many now in the homes were separated from their parents during a recent crackdown on illegal crossings of the U.S. -Mexico border.

Trump had travelled to Capitol Hill as recently as Tuesday to sell GOP lawmakers on embracing immigration bills pushed by House leadership and to take action to halt the separation of <u>migrant families</u> at the border. The separation here is from the facts.

Despite the president's prediction of a "Red wave" this fall, Republicans are facing an uphill battle this November as they seek to hold onto control of the House and Senate.

Her youngest, a 2-year-old boy, can't give her any information. The accompanying article incorrectly stated the girl had been carried away from her mother, screaming.

"We weren't lucky enough to be separated for five days or 10 days; we're separated permanently", said Laura Wilkerson, whose son Josh was killed in 2010.

"We want people in our country based on merit, not based on a draw where other countries put their absolute worst in a bin and they start drawing people", he said told the victim families, also known as "angel families". Border patrol agents did not say where it was headed.

Trump has a few *times* invoked the name of Kate Steinle - a 32-year-old woman who died in 2015 after being shot by an immigrant previously deported - to push his immigration policies.

"We are bringing that bill to the floor", House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said, referring to legislation that has been postponed because of a lack of support among warring factions of the Republican Party.

Earlier in the week, the president had called for <u>Congress</u> to quickly approve sweeping <u>immigration legislation</u>.

"There are many more rooms full of women going through the same thing", she said. "Dems are just playing games, have no intention of doing anything to solve this decades old problem".

"You just fear that tweet in the morning", said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

But, in a series of Twitter posts early on Friday, he said House Republicans should drop efforts to pass comprehensive immigration legislation until after the November elections.