

Policy Brief

S2113: Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children

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Social Issue Being Addressed:

- This bill will focus on increasing the health and safety of migrant children and their families in immigration detention centers by treating them with dignity, respect, and care.

Vulnerable/At-Risk Population:

- Migrant children and their families that are being held in detention centers across America.



If Passed:

- If passed, this bill will ensure the health and safety protections for detained children, along with their parents. The bill will also ensure that migrant families remain together.

If Not Passed:

- Children and families detained in immigration centers will be in more danger of being separated from their families and be at-risk for more health concerns and non-sanitary living conditions.

Strengths of Policy:

- Provides thorough legislation that ensures the health and protection of migrant children.
- Provides immigration court improvements that will enable pending cases to be efficiently processed, limiting the amount of time migrant children and their families are detained.
- Provides an adequate system of accountability for the treatment of migrants in detention centers.

Limitations of Policy:

- It does not apply or benefit single adults or to adults without children.
- The policy does not specify who would oversee the annual child welfare trainings.

Historical Context:

- Migrant families are currently housed in overcrowded facilities without access to basic human necessities. Housing conditions are not up to federal standards.



Recommendations to Improve Policy:

1. To include single adults and adults without children into the bill who are currently in custody of the United States government.
2. Should aim to provide an adequate education for minors living in detention centers
3. Increase child welfare training from a 90-minute annual training to a bi-annual for a total of 180 minutes.
4. Child welfare training should be administered by licensed mental health practitioners or social worker.

1. Thomson, H., Thomas, S., Sellstorm, E., & Petticrew, M. (2013). Housing improvements for health and associated socio-economic outcomes. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, (2). doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD008657.pub2
2. Stange, M., & Stark, B. (2019). The Ethical and Public Health Implications of Family Separation. *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 47(2_suppl), 91–94. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1073110519857327>
3. Thompson, M. (2019). Children at the border: Existing tools for effective advocacy. *Law & Contemporary Problems*, 82(2), 217–242.