



Host a “Protect Kids & Families” Comments Party!!

Date: Choose a date soon! Remember that public comments related to “Flores” are due by November 6th, and public comments related to “Public Charge” are due by December 10th!

Location: Set up a table at your place of worship, community center, campus, home or other gathering place. Make sure to get permission first.

Materials: Bring a stack of printed public comment templates, signs for making comments, and copies of desired information about the proposed “Flores” and “Public Charge” rules changes and suggested comments. Go to <http://bit.ly/FamilyDetentionFloresProtections> and to <http://bit.ly/RIMPublicCharge> for resources and info! Bring laptop computers if persons plan to submit comments online, and bring envelopes and stamps for those who wish to submit hard copies. (You can mail comments in one envelope as a group.)

Set a Context: Have local immigrants share their stories about coming to the U.S. or watch a brief video clip or two about immigrant experiences to help set the context of the importance of standing together with immigrants. This short video shares from a child’s perspective the importance of receiving care with family (rather than being placed in restrictive jail-like detention): <https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/564089/lucky-ones/>. This 1 minute video teaches how alternatives to detention are more humane and less costly than family detention: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1Fs-8Oiclg>. To learn about challenges immigrants already face entering the U.S. (even before Public Charge would make it much more difficult), watch this 5 minute video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpD2gp3Rgl0>.

Track: Count how many comments are made by your group and email a report to: sstanley@dhm.disciples.org.

Share: Take photos of your event and share on social media to inspire others to get involved! Tag Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries in your post using @StanleyRea, or email photos to: sstanley@dhm.disciples.org. When sharing use the hashtags #FamiliesBelongTogether & #ImmigrantsWelcome.

Why do this?

- The public comment process is an effective way to push back against proposed rule changes to the Flores Settlement that are seeking to give the administration the ability to lock children and parents in detention centers indefinitely. Flores protections have helped ensure children would be placed in detention for the *shortest possible time only*. Detention has catastrophic effects on a child’s health and development, and there are much more humane and fiscally responsible Alternatives to Detention to ensure that people attend their immigration court hearings.
- The public comment process is an important way to register your concerns about proposed rule changes to Public Charge which would favor only the wealthiest immigrants, penalize hard working families, and would force families to choose between being together with stability and meeting basic human needs like food, medical care, and housing.

Need more info? Visit our website: <http://bit.ly/DisciplesRIM> & see resources here: <http://bit.ly/RIMPublicCharge> & here: <http://bit.ly/FamilyDetentionFloresProtections>. Email sstanley@dhm.disciples.org if questions.