

**Statement of Julia Harumi Mass
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Kebin's case is just one example of the ways children are victims of current immigration enforcement practices. Throughout the recent raids in northern California, there have been numerous reports of children left without care after their parents are detained, immigration agents targeting streets near elementary schools, and children too upset to participate in class after witnessing early morning raids in their communities. The human cost of these tactics is unacceptable.

The ACLU is currently involved in litigation throughout the country challenging the treatment of children by federal immigration authorities. In Texas, the ACLU filed a case challenging the incarceration of children for immigration violations and the prison-like conditions they are subjected to. At the T. Don Hutto detention facility in Taylor, Texas, approximately 200 children are forced to spend 11 or 12 hours a day locked in small cells, where they are not allowed to keep any food or toys. They are given inadequate medical care and allowed only very little time for outdoor recreation. The ACLU of Massachusetts recently filed a lawsuit challenging the immigration agency's failure to arrange for the care of both U.S. citizen and immigrant children left behind when over 300 people were arrested and transferred out of state after a workplace raid. Kebin's unlawful detention illustrates yet another example of disregard for basic standards of care and consideration toward children—this time a U.S. citizen child unlawfully and unconstitutionally detained by immigration authorities.

In March, we filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act, seeking records from Immigration Customs and Enforcement that we expect to shed more light on other abusive practices that have been alleged in the recent raids—forced entries into homes without warrants, coerced interrogations, racial profiling, and abusive treatment by federal officers.

What we know from Kebin's case and others like it is that immigration agents regularly go into immigrant neighborhoods and workplaces intending and expecting to arrest hundreds of people without taking simple steps to ensure that minor children are appropriately cared for. This treatment of children is simply not in line with American values of decency and fairness. We urge others to join us in calling upon the federal government to adopt humane policies to protect innocent children from the trauma of being torn from their parents or unlawfully incarcerated.

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