

that McGahn had threatened to resign rather than carry out the order. The President reacted to the news stories by directing White House officials to tell McGahn to dispute the story and create a record stating he had not been ordered to have the special counsel removed. McGahn told those officials that the media reports were accurate in stating that the President had directed McGahn to have the special counsel removed."

Volume II, pages 5 and 6.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE).

Mr. MORELLE. "Congress can permissibly criminalize certain obstructive conduct by the President, such as suborning perjury, intimidating witnesses, or fabricating evidence, because those prohibitions raise no separation of powers questions. . . . The Constitution does not authorize the President to engage in such conduct, and those actions would transgress the President's duty to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed.'"

Volume II, page 170.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. "On October 7, 2016, the media released video of candidate Trump speaking in graphic terms about women years earlier, which was considered damaging to his candidacy. Less than an hour later, WikiLeaks made its second release: thousands of John Podesta's emails that had been stolen by the GRU in late March 2016. The FBI and other U.S. Government institutions were at the time continuing their investigation of suspected Russian Government efforts to interfere in the Presidential election.

"That same day, October 7, the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a joint public statement 'that the Russian Government directed the recent compromises of emails from U.S. persons and institutions, including from U.S. political organizations.' Those 'thefts' and the 'disclosures' of the hacked materials through online platforms such as WikiLeaks, the statement continued, 'are intended to interfere with the U.S. election process.'"

Volume I, page 7.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES).

Mrs. HAYES. "Further, the Office learned that some of the individuals we interviewed or whose conduct we investigated—including some associated with the Trump campaign—deleted relevant communications or communicated during the relevant period using applications that feature encryption or that do not provide for long-term retention of data or communications records. In such cases, the Office was not able to corroborate witness statements through comparison to contemporaneous communications or

fully question witnesses about statements that appeared inconsistent with other known facts."

Volume I, page 10.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. "Cohen also recalled speaking with the President's personal counsel about pardons after the searches of his home and office had occurred, at a time when the media had reported that pardon discussions were occurring at the White House. . . . Cohen understood, based on this conversation and previous conversations about pardons with the President's personal counsel, that as long as he stayed on message, he would be taken care of by the President, either through a pardon or through the investigation being shut down."

Volume II, page 147.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. "The investigation established that several individuals affiliated with the Trump campaign lied to the Office, and to Congress, about their interactions with Russian-affiliated individuals and related matters. Those lies materially impaired the investigation of Russian election interference. The Office charged some of those lies as violations of the Federal false statements statute."

Volume I, page 9.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES).

Mrs. HAYES. "The President and his personal counsel made repeated statements suggesting that a pardon was a possibility for Manafort, while also making it clear that the President did not want Manafort to 'flip' and cooperate with the government."

Volume II, page 131.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. "Immediately after the November 8 election, Russian Government officials and prominent Russian businessmen began trying to make inroads into the new administration. The most senior levels of Russian Government encouraged these efforts. The Russian Embassy made contact hours after the election to congratulate the President-elect and to arrange a call with President Putin. Several Russian businessmen picked up the effort from there."

Volume I, page 7.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. "The President engaged in a second phase of conduct, involving public attacks of the investigation, nonpublic efforts to control it, and efforts in both public and private to encourage witnesses not to cooperate with the investigation."

Volume II, page 7.

"The President's position as the head of the executive branch provided him with unique and powerful means of in-

fluencing official proceedings, subordinate officers, and potential witnesses."

Volume II, page 7.

"Substantial evidence indicates that the President's effort to have Sessions limit the scope of the special counsel's investigation to future election interference was intended to prevent further investigative scrutiny of the President's and his campaign's conduct."

Volume II, page 97.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. "Two days after the President directed McGahn to have the special counsel removed, the President made another attempt to affect the course of the Russia investigation. On June 19, 2017, the President met one-on-one with Corey Lewandowski in the Oval Office and dictated a message to be delivered to Attorney General Sessions that would have had the effect of limiting the Russia investigation to future election interference only."

Volume II, page 90.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MARKING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY SEPARATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for her incredible leadership in the Congressional Progressive Caucus on so many issues, including bringing truth to the Mueller investigation and making sure people understand exactly what is going on.

Madam Speaker, for the rest of the Special Order hour, which is the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Special Order hour that we do each week, we are focusing on the 1-year anniversary of the family separation crisis. Any of our Members here who would like to speak are welcome to do so.

Let me start by saying, 1 year ago, I became the first Member of Congress to go into a Federal prison where hundreds of men and women, mothers and fathers, had been separated from their children and were being held in the prison system, in the Federal prison just south of my district.

I cannot, even today, 365 days later, forget the stories that these mothers and fathers told me. They told me about how immigration agents said to them, "Your families don't exist anymore," and that they would never see their children again.

At the time that I saw them, it was already 3 to 4 weeks after they had been separated, and the majority of those parents had no idea where their children were.

In fact, that morning, some of them had been handed slips that supposedly

had the names of their children written on those slips of paper. One woman came over to me crying and she said: These are not my children.

That slip that supposedly had the names of her children did not match her actual children.

Can you imagine? I just think, as a mother, and for all the mothers and fathers out there, as a parent, can you imagine being separated from your child, in some cases children as young as 6 months, later we found out 3 months old, babies, who were torn off the breasts of their mothers?

These moms described immigration agents tearing them from their children without the opportunity to say good-bye. Some of them told me that when they went to go to the bathroom, they were told their children would still be there. When they came back, their children were gone. But they could hear them in the very next room crying for them, screaming for their parents, and these mothers were not able to go.

They told me how immigration agents put them in line with their children, and they would send the parents in one direction and the children in another direction.

One of the mothers told me how she left Guatemala with her 8- and 12-year-old children. Her husband is in prison. He was put in prison for raping a young child around the same age as her daughter. He was just about to come out of prison, and she was afraid that he would come out of prison and then go after their child, rape her daughter.

Another woman from El Salvador told me how she got a protection order against her ex-husband, who is a police officer, but the protection order was meaningless. He continued to antagonize her family, so she left.

Many of these mothers told me how they had left one or two of their children behind because they wanted to try to save one. It was too difficult to bring small children on the long journey that they were taking—the incredible sacrifice as a parent of trying to save one child.

One mother told me that she had three children. The first was shot and killed by gang members. The second was shot and paralyzed by gang members. She left the paralyzed child at home because she knew that he would not be able to make the journey. She took the final child. She tried to bring that child to safety.

□ 2000

After everything these mothers experienced—the trauma in their home countries, the cruel separation from their children—the treatment that they experienced in immigration custody was just outrageous.

Immigration agents told them that they were “filthy.” They used that word. Immigration agents laughed at these mothers when they cried about losing their children. And these mothers told me how they were detained in

cells that were so cold that they called them “the ice box” because it was so cold.

Many of these mothers described being put there after crossing the Rio Grande River; and they were still wet, and they were put into these freezer boxes, these ice boxes, without blankets, without sleeping mats. Some mothers described how they went without water for 5 days.

After public outcry and pressure from elected officials, the government set up a number for parents to call to get information on their children, but some of the parents that I spoke to in Texas said that the number didn’t work or that ICE wouldn’t allow them to speak to their children.

One mother mentioned that she repeatedly tried to call her child to try to locate her child, but the number would not go through.

One mother told me that, when she requested to talk to her child, the ICE agents would get mad; and agents mentioned that, in some instances, families would have to pay for these phone calls.

And this isn’t just anecdotal. The DHS inspector general’s September 2018 report found mixed results among parents attempting to call their children and that important information about how to contact separated children was not always available.

Just this week, 2 days ago, Members of Congress had hoped to do the Special Order hour on the day of the anniversary. We had to do it today because this is our scheduled time. But the group Families Belong Together, a coalition of groups working on this issue, did an installation on our Capitol lawn with the shoes of tiny children all throughout and then an incredible 3-D statue of a mother reaching out to her child, and the child was in a cage.

I cannot imagine that this is the country that we call the greatest country in the world. I cannot imagine that my country that I am proud of, that I serve here as a Member of Congress for would do this to children.

And this administration has consistently demonized and vilified immigrants, but this policy of cruel family separation is hard to even describe, hard to imagine that it is happening in our borders.

I was privileged to co-chair, with Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, the Women’s Working Group on Immigration Reform, and we led a trip to the border. I see my good friend Representative Jan Schakowsky, who was on that trip, and I just want to ask the gentlewoman, Representative SCHAKOWSKY, who has been so eloquent on this issue, I want to see if she wants to say a few words.

And then I know my friend BARBARA LEE is here, as well, about this crisis and about our commitment, as Democrats, to refuse to allow this to continue.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

We have talked about how shocking it is for our country, the United States of America, which is, despite any effort to change, a country of immigrants. I know the gentlewoman, herself, is an immigrant to the United States of America.

My parents, neither were born in the United States of America. But this is a place where my family was able to find refuge from the pogroms in Eastern Europe and make a good life here. And yet, today, we are seeing such horror that, if it were another country, I think we would want sanctions. We would go to the United Nations. How could a country separate families?

And it is not just at the border, as Members know. Inside our country, in my city of Chicago, we are finding families that are scared all the time, mixed families where the children might be citizens and the parents undocumented. The kids are afraid to go to school, wondering if their parents will be there when they get home.

But that trip to the border that the Congresswoman helped organize is something that I will never, ever forget. Seeing people in cages, seeing that grandmother—remember?—who was inconsolable because she came with her 7-year-old granddaughter who was taken from her because our country did not recognize a grandmother as family. That child was redesignated as an unaccompanied minor, and she thought she may never see her granddaughter again, and maybe that is true.

There are thousands, we think, of children and families that are separated. We don’t know. Nobody knows. The Department of Homeland Security doesn’t know how many children have been separated from their parents.

We saw some moms who were being reunited with their children, and one of them was furious, and I was curious as to why. This mother said her 8-year-old daughter was told, “Your mother abandoned you.” Someone representing our country said that to a child.

Who does that?

“Your mother abandoned you, and you will be in a shelter until you are 18 years old.” That reunion, mother and daughter, did not go smoothly at first, as you can imagine.

I mean, we saw a whole room full of people pleading guilty to crossing the border because it wasn’t at a designated border crossing. It was so painful to see that. And that was the beginning of the zero-tolerance policy. And we are still seeing families separated, families suffering 1 year later.

And, Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for calling attention to this and for organizing that visit to the border, which is forever in my mind.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for her comments.

My colleague, the gentlewoman from California, BARBARA LEE, has been such a champion for families, for children,

for people of color, for low-income families across this country and knows the history of this country. This is not the first time that we have separated children from their parents.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) to say a few words on this, as well.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative JAYAPAL for yielding, and I thank her for her tremendous leadership and for staying steady and focused. And, also, I just have to recognize her for the input which she has provided to the conference committee to keep the government open, but, also, it was a conference committee to fund Homeland Security. Her input and what she gave us really was extremely important to get that done. We have a lot of work to do. So I thank her very much for that, also.

Yes, our Nation has yet to recover from the Trump administration's cruel zero-tolerance, zero-humanity prosecution policy that tore and is tearing thousands of children from their parents and guardians, which was announced 1 year ago this week.

Since Donald Trump started his zero-humanity policy—and that is exactly what it is—we have learned more and more disturbing evidence.

We know that the Trump administration piloted family separation on a limited basis and planned to impose a policy of mass separating of children from their moms and dads—a policy. We have seen the administration's memos contemplating how this could be done and the resources needed to separate and detain thousands of children and parents.

The Government Accountability Office has investigated, finding that, despite the administration's contemplation, this is a very serious, serious problem, that they were unaware the then-Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, intended to launch this zero-humanity policy. They didn't even know this, they said.

At least as of February this year, we know that the Justice Department and their attorneys are still not tracking when they prosecute parents and legal guardians separated from their children.

And that brings me to what may be the most disturbing part of it all: The Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general found that the total number of children separated from a parent or guardian by immigration authorities is unknown and that thousands of children may have been separated.

So the bottom line is that Donald Trump and his administration, showing horrific cruelty and disregard for the well-being of children, planned for months—this was a plan—to tear children from their parents' arms.

Key officials were warned about the potentially lifelong harm to children, and Donald Trump and his administration still did absolutely nothing to en-

sure children could be reunited with their parents.

Yes, Congresswoman JAYAPAL, this is not a stain, but this is yet another stain on the United States.

I am reminded that 400 years ago, when the first Africans were brought to this country to begin the horrific, inhumane institution and government-sanctioned slavery, children were separated from their parents. And that was a plan, just as it is a plan now. African families were split and destroyed.

We still experience, in the Black community, generational trauma from these crimes against humanity. I couldn't help but be reminded of what my ancestors experienced as I visited McAllen, Texas, and Brownsville, Texas, last year.

I saw children sleeping on concrete floors, behind barbed wire, crying for their parents. I spoke with mothers and fathers who did not know where their children were after several months. And we were told that they could make these phone calls, but also that these calls cost money.

Where do they have money? How could they get any money?

These children and their parents had no access to mental health professionals.

Now, my background is psychiatric social work, and I know the trauma of separation of children from their parents, just within 24 hours that trauma settles in.

They had no access to legal services. And, yes, I couldn't believe it when I saw that these detention centers were prisons. They reminded me of San Quentin.

I saw mothers in prison uniforms. These were asylum seekers. They were put behind barbed wire in prison uniforms. This was like something I had never seen in my life.

And yet it took me back to what our government sanctioned and promoted and had as its policy 400 years ago.

Yes, I was born in a border city, El Paso, Texas. I was just there with Congresswoman ESCOBAR on Monday. And El Paso, the people of El Paso are doing everything they can to help with the children and with the families that are being so ruthlessly treated by our immigration officials.

Now, I just have to tell you, these children will grow up with a disdain for America; okay? Their trauma will turn into anger. And I know that, professionally, I know what is going to happen to these kids.

The long-term impact will not be good for our country, so this administration better figure this out pretty quickly. There are so many dimensions to what they are doing. I don't think they even get it.

The humane and the humanitarian crisis that we are experiencing is first and foremost, but we also have to remind the Trump administration they are creating children now who will be adults soon, and this trauma is going to stay with them all of their lives. So

we better get it right, and get it right quickly.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) for her leadership. We have done much work in the Appropriations Committee.

Thank God we were able to pass some of the amendments last year that would not allow the immigration officials to chain pregnant women—get it?—chain pregnant women. We got rid of that. Hopefully, they are implementing that properly.

So there is a lot to do, but this is something that cannot last. This is America, and we should not—the world should not see us leading an immigration policy or promoting an immigration policy that, central to it, destroys families and children and lives.

These are human beings. They don't deserve this, and we have to do more to stop it.

Madam Speaker, I again thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman LEE for her work, for her leadership. I was thinking about what she said about children and the impact on them, even within 24 hours.

We had the then-Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Scott Lloyd, who was in to testify before us in the Judiciary Committee.

□ 2015

We also had other career child welfare experts that were there on the panel, including one who testified to us on the committee that he warned the director and those above him about the increasing family separations and the incredibly significant, and potentially lifelong risks to those children; not only the ones that weren't reunited—because at that point there was still, as there are today, over 300 families today that still aren't reunited—but not only to the ones that weren't reunited, but he said even the ones who were reunited with their families, but they spent 3 months or even a week, or even 3 weeks—most of them spent months separated from their parents—that lifelong—and he used that—lifelong damage to those children would be intense.

I asked Scott Lloyd as the then-director of the Refugee Resettlement Program: Did you do anything? Did you take that information that you got, that this was going to be lifelong, irreversible—he used the word irreversible, the witness who testified about the damage to children—did you do anything with that information about the lifelong, irreversible damage to thousands of children that you, this administration, has caused?

And he said: No, didn't share it with anybody. Didn't do anything about it.

On the same day that the Trump administration said that it would reunite thousands of children—because this is not a Democrat or a Republican issue—people across this country were outraged by what they saw.

I remember First Lady Laura Bush wrote an amazing op-ed talking about this is not us, this is not America. Independents, Republicans, and Democrats knew that the Trump zero-humanity policy was wrong, it was cruel, and it was un-American.

The same day that the Trump administration said: Okay, we hear the outrage. We will reunite thousands of children that it had separated through a central database, a government official admitted in an email that the Trump administration only had enough information at that point to reconnect 60 parents with their kids; 60 parents out of nearly 3,000 children that we know of.

Because later, we also found out that there were more children that we didn't know about in a "pilot project" that was even before the scrutiny came.

Let me remind people that at the time that this was happening, DHS Secretary, then-DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and other Trump officials claimed repeatedly—not just once, not just twice—but repeatedly in testimony, in hearings, that they were keeping track of separations, and that claim had simply no basis in reality.

The truth is that DHS has better systems in place to track the property that people who were in custody left, but not the children. Trump's Department of Homeland Security did not see fit to track children, including infants and toddlers.

A Federal judge recently ordered the Trump administration to locate the children that were still remaining, potentially numbering in the thousands, over the next 6 months as opposed to the 2 years that the Trump administration requested. Just imagine, the Trump administration said give us 2 years to try to reunite these kids with their parents.

But the truth is, Congresswoman LEE and everybody that is watching, we may never know the number of children who were separated by the Trump administration. There are children who may never ever be reunited with their parents.

We are, of course, trying to get to the bottom of this. We are trying to get accountability on this, but we know that DHS is still separating families. We see the relentless efforts of this administration to cut people off from seeking asylum, which is, by the way, a lawful act, not only by our own domestic laws. We are signatory to human rights treaties, international treaties, which require us to allow people to seek asylum.

Last week I reintroduced my Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act with my colleagues, Congressman ADAM SMITH, and Senator BOOKER introduced it in the Senate. Last cycle, this bill had over half of the Democratic Caucus. I think it was like 167 cosponsors. We intend to get more of our Democratic Caucus. My office spent 8 months working on this bill in the last Con-

gress with stakeholders from across the country.

I am proud to say that as we reintroduce it, we have also made sure—and, frankly, it would have addressed the humanitarian crisis that we saw through family separation. Last year already made it extremely difficult to detain children and families. This year, what we did is, we added explicit language that bars Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials from detaining children under 18 years.

We actually had the provision of not allowing for pregnant women to be shackled. Why do we need provisions saying pregnant women can't be shackled?

What this bill is about is denying this administration and any administration in the future—Democratic or Republican—from using detention to facilitate the cruel separation of families.

I am hoping—I know the gentlewoman is either on the bill or is going to be on the bill—but I am hoping that every single one of my colleagues joins me in transforming a cruel, abusive system; a detention system that takes these children and puts them—we should call them jails because that is what they are. They are not detention facilities. Most of the actual facilities, as the gentlewoman saw, are just like jails.

And, in fact, they are using more and more jails. But that system is now detaining 52,000 people a day, which is why we need to make sure that we address this in appropriations. We need to make sure that we address this through legislation.

So I am still astounded by the profound cruelty of this administration and this policy of family separation, of zero humanity that was imposed on children and families seeking asylum.

Ms. LEE of California. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, Congresswoman JAYAPAL's bill is extremely important, and I hope that Republicans also join us in this effort because this is a concern that should be bipartisan or nonpartisan.

But let me just mention a couple of things. Everyone who is a parent, a grandparent, or has ever babysat children, or who has been around children, if a child walks off, or you can't locate the child that you are caring for, I know you have felt the panic. I know when my children were small, and I would turn around and they were gone it was like: Oh, my God, what has happened? And the anxiety and the fear, and just getting very emotionally distraught behind not knowing where my children were, will always be with me.

So I think everyone in our country should understand what these parents are going through and what a lost child is feeling if they have had that experience before.

We had a hearing on this family separation policy in the Appropriations Committee, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Services Subcommittee, and we had a panel of individuals. Some were mental health professionals. And we were told in no uncertain terms that a day or two of counseling is not going to get it. These parents and these children need a specific form of psychotherapy, and it has got to be sustained. It has got to be professional, and it has got to be the type of therapy that addresses specifically trauma.

So I am not sure that DHS even understands this. So it is on the record, and we have been trying now to make sure that we can provide the funding for the proper type of mental health services so that we can begin to deal with this trauma that has to be addressed early on. Because otherwise, this, again, is not going to be only these kids. This will be generational because there are DNA changes through the generations as a result of family separation and children being separated from their parents at an early age.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for pointing that out. The head of the American Academy of Pediatrics has come. We have had a number of forums where people have been able to ask questions. Our Members have been able to ask questions, and I am very grateful to many of the Members who have taken it upon themselves to go and visit these detention facilities, go to the border with us and on other trips as well, and see exactly what is happening. Because I don't think you can really imagine it unless you see it.

I don't think you can imagine what it is like to go into a giant facility where children are being held, 6, 7, 8 years old, being held in cages with no place to sleep.

Ms. LEE of California. Peeping out at you, begging for help.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Yes, begging for help. And I think about the children, the parents that I talked to, and some of the reunifications that we saw when I led that trip to the border and thinking about these parents who had to experience their children not wanting to come to them.

Representative SCHAKOWSKY talked about one mom that we met who was reunited with her 8-year-old daughter. The daughter had been told that the mother had abandoned her, and for months, she thought the mother had abandoned her and that she was going to go into a shelter, or a foster home because her mother had abandoned her.

So you can imagine when the mother came to be reunited with the child, the mother was so happy that she finally was getting to see her child, and the child did not want to go to her mother. She didn't want to go to her mother. It took some time for them to actually be reunited and for the mother to say: No, I did not abandon you. But if you are

an 8-year-old child, how do you understand that?

Ms. LEE of California. It is hard to process that.

Ms. JAYAPAL. How do you process it? And I think that in the end, I continue to think about the ways in which we are criminalizing migrants, criminalizing people who are fleeing violence, tremendous violence in their countries.

Just the other day there was an article in *The New York Times*, I think, that talked about in Honduras, which is where many of the parents that I met with that were in that Federal prison separated from their children, many of them were from Honduras. This article described how you have two choices: You either get killed by the gangs or you leave. That is the only choice you have.

I also went to Tijuana. I think I was the first Member to go to Tijuana, and I met with a 15-year-old boy who had been shot in both knees. And he had a phone message on his cell phone from his mother who said: Please do not come back here. Just go. Just go. Get to the United States. Get to a place of safety. Seek asylum. I will be devastated to have you leave me, but I just want you to stay alive.

What parent doesn't want their child to stay alive? And this young man who talked to me was a strong young man, but he started weeping, talking about how he had to leave his mother and come to the United States as an unaccompanied child. It was devastating to hear, absolutely devastating to hear.

As we celebrate this 1-year anniversary—not celebrate, memorialize, I should say—this 1-year anniversary of this cruel, zero-humanity policy of family separation, I urge all of my colleagues to sign on to my Dignity for Detained Immigrants bill, to work in appropriations in every committee that we have, to remember that we still have children who are separated from their parents, still to this day.

We still have families that are being separated from their parents as we speak. We still do not know how many thousands more children were separated from their parents as a result of this administration's cruel policies that undermine who we are.

I see I have been joined by an incredible colleague, a leader on the Judiciary Committee, a leader in the Progressive Caucus, and also somebody who was on our trip to Texas, to the border, but also is from Texas.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague, for her comments on this.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I want to join both Congresswoman JAYAPAL and Congresswoman LEE on just reinforcing the devastation and the dastardliness of child separation from their parents. I would just like to very briefly say that this sad commemoration should equate to a commitment of zero tolerance for separating children from their families.

We should end the migrant policy that includes child separation, the position of remaining in Mexico as you seek asylum, the losing of your space, or your bed, if you are in a shelter and have to be sent back to Mexico when you actually apply for asylum. All of these migrant policies, which included child separation, clearly can devastate the families.

So I want to emphasize just one point that included my many trips to the border, including the time we had the opportunity to travel together, and I want to focus on the psychological and maybe irreparable damage that is being done particularly to children in the understandable period. That is not a technical term. I am not a sociologist or a psychologist, but in that period where the child may be somewhere between 4 and 15, or 4 and 12. Those are really years when, whether it is a boy or girl, they are bonding with mom. People must realize that those children traveled thousands of miles or 1,000-plus miles with that parent and mostly that mother, and it has been a dad.

□ 2030

So that mother made a sacrifice, either out of lack of understanding of the language or signing a paper that she did not understand or thinking that she needed to separate because of the housing situation, and many of us saw the housing situation and the metallic blankets and the lack of space.

Let me just say this for the personnel on the border. We found some very empathetic personnel on the border, men and women who do their job. But the resources of the facilities are absolutely inadequate and disgraceful, and they have been like that on the border of Texas for a very long time.

So I am grateful for Congresswoman LEE and Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, those who realize we have to really overhaul those facilities, that will include healthcare facilities and otherwise.

But in that reunion, you might say—and there were good staff people who thought they were doing the right thing, and they were excited with the expectation. They had brought the children.

I remember two little boys. First of all, there wasn't a dry eye in the room of those of us who had come. It was just unspeakable. It was overwhelming. It brought back memories. You thought about your children or your extended family members.

So two little boys, crisp little white shirts on over at a table playing with the best red fire truck and truck that they could find. In walk mothers who went to different corners. But in walks this mother with her belongings, as I recollect, like in a pillowcase, not even a suitcase. Obviously, you have traveled 1,000 miles plus, and then you have been detained somewhere and your child went off some other place.

She comes with those welled-up eyes of expectation. She stood by that table for the longest period of time.

We all know there is no way you don't know someone is standing behind you or there is no way you don't recognize your mom even in the sight of your eye who was walking in. We know how mom and children are, mom and dad. They break that big grin, and they run like they have never run before to get into the arms of that mom and dad.

This mom stood there with her pillowcase belongings for the longest period of time, and those little boys continued to play and ignore and play and ignore and play and ignore. I almost wanted to reach out and turn that little face back here.

There was no way they did not know mom was standing there, but the detachment was so devastating. When that mom put her arms around precious little boy, he was so stiff that I knew this was going to take a very long time.

What I was fearful of was, where they would be destined, there would be no resources for his treatment, for his ability to understand what happened.

How callous this policy is, to date, that there are still some separated children; and with the leadership we have now, we don't know whether they will do it again.

So I thank the gentlewoman for doing this because, even now, my eyes well up because children are children, and we will never repair the damage, but we must stop this policy. It must be zero tolerance. We must not have this policy ever again. It is truly inhumane, and it is not representative of the values of this Nation, in spite of some of the history we have had as a country.

This is a nation where people believe in that sense of dignity and equality. Our values say that. We need to act on that and, certainly, humanity, which is so very important.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her leadership, for her words, and for her work on this issue.

I would just say that, as we get ready to close, here, this Special Order hour, we are thinking, keeping in our minds and in our hearts the thousands of families across this country and across the world that have been separated from their children, and we will do everything we can to continue to fight for justice.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the crisis at our southern border.