

District of Columbia Psychological Association

PO Box 1448 • Cedar Park, TX 78630 • Phone: (202) 544-4556 • Fax: (800) 784-9034

The D C Psychological Association (DCPA) voices a strong stand against the separation of children and families, summary deportation without due process, or any policies that treat immigrant families without respect for their rights and dignity. We stand by the psychological science that deems these policies can be harmful. The American Psychological Association (APA) states "Decades of psychological research show that children separated from their parents can suffer severe psychological distress." DCPA stands with the APA in advocating that the core principles to guide our nation's immigration policy need to include 1) Families should not be separated; 2) Services for children and families should be informed by research on trauma-informed care; 3) Culturally competent mental health services should be available; and 4) The best standards of care should be applied for immigrant children in U.S. custody. Due to our commitment to the wellbeing of all individuals, we intend to monitor this situation and welcome others to assist us in anyway they can.

R. Mallory Starr, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, US Asian Cultural Academy
President, District of Columbia Psychological Association