

PRESS ADVISORY

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Advocates Respond to Orange County's Referral of Children for Deportation

New Report by U.C. Irvine Law Clinic Describes the Harms of ICE Referrals

Santa Ana, CA – On Wednesday, December 4, community leaders will confront Orange County probation officials with a new report revealing that county probation officers have referred more children to immigration authorities than any other county in the state. The report, titled *Second Chances for All: Why Orange County Probation Should Stop Choosing Deportation Over Rehabilitation for Immigrant Youth*, was authored by students in the Immigrant Rights Clinic at the University of California, Irvine School of Law. **The report will be released at a press briefing at 429 French Street (corner of E. 4th St. and French) in Santa Ana at 11:00 AM on December 4. Following the press briefing, a delegation will walk over to Probation Department offices at 909 N. Main Street to deliver the report.**

"Last month, California took a giant step forward when Governor Brown signed the TRUST Act, a state law which limits who may be detained for ICE. But Orange County officials insist on continuing to entangle themselves in federal immigration enforcement," said Tim Martin, a law student and co-author of the report. "These referrals violate confidentiality laws and constitutional limits on the authority of county officers."

"Although the Orange County Probation Department enacted changes to its policies last November, apparently limiting ICE referrals to children who pose a 'public safety threat' or instances where deportation would be in the 'best interests' of a child, our report shows that the Department continues to make a steady stream of referrals," said James Buatti, another co-author of the report.

"Referring juveniles to ICE undermines the rehabilitative mission of the juvenile justice system, with no corresponding benefit to public safety," said co-author Victoria Anderson. "The Department requires probation officers to do immigration work they were not hired or trained to do, at significant cost to the county."

At the press briefing, members of the community, including representatives from Keep Our Families Together and Los Amigos of Orange County, will share their perspective and experiences with the county's policy.

"It is time to end the separation of families," said Abraham Medina of Keep Our Families Together. "Orange County Probation needs to stop putting kids in the deportation pipeline, and President Obama should exercise his authority to suspend deportations until Congress passes immigration reform that will uphold the human and civil rights of our community."

The report concludes with a series of recommendations for Orange County officials and state legislators.

Starting at 10:00 AM on December 4, 2013, the full report will be available on the U.C. Irvine School of Law website at <http://www.law.uci.edu/academics/real-life-learning/clinics/immigrant-rights.html>. Copies of the report will also be available at the press briefing.

About the U.C. Irvine School of Law Immigrant Rights Clinic

The Immigrant Rights Clinic is one of several law clinics affiliated with the U.C. Irvine School of Law. Students in the clinic provide scarce pro bono legal resources to defend immigrants and support their political engagement through grassroots and advocacy campaigns. They are supervised by Professors Annie Lai and Sameer Ashar, and attorney Jessica Karp.

About Keep Our Families Together

Keep Our Families Together is a campaign led by immigrant youth in Santa Ana to uphold the human rights of undocumented families. It works to end collaboration between immigration officials and law enforcement and to stop deportations.

About Los Amigos of Orange County

Los Amigos was established in 1978 to focus on issues and concerns in Orange County affecting the Latino community, including education, civil rights, and government transparency.

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