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'Our Hearts Break for These Children and Families'

Statement of Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance

"Those of us in the afterschool field work tirelessly to protect children and enhance their prospects in school and in life. We devote ourselves to giving every child every possible chance to engage, learn and thrive. We know very well that children must feel safe and secure for that to happen, and that trauma has a long-term, potentially devastating impact on their lives and futures. So for many of us, it has been shattering to watch the pain and trauma inflicted on the immigrant and refugee children who have been separated from their parents, as well as those who now live in fear that they will return home from their school or afterschool program to discover a parent or parents gone because were suddenly detained or deported. Our fervent wish is that, as a country, we come together to protect all children and treat all families with the kindness, dignity and respect that we would want for our own. Our hearts break for these children and families."

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The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.