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Advocates Concerned that Trump Executive Order Doesn't Go Far Enough

Madison—Yesterday, President Trump signed an Executive Order to stop the heinous practice of separating families at the border. Advocates were elated to know that the US government will no longer pull families apart. However, that joy quickly deteriorated with the knowledge that a child's first experience in this country will still be behind the unwelcoming, cruel bars of a jail.

"Week after week of attacks on immigrants have left us all feeling devastated and frankly, ashamed. How can the United States of America continue to treat immigrants and refugees seeking safety and hope so wickedly? At End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, every day, we strive to provide the tools and resources necessary to support human beings out of traumatic and violent situations. Although President Trump's Executive Order is a step in a better direction, it does not erase the trauma this country has already perpetrated against thousands of families and children. It will also not prevent the continued degradation of immigrants and refugees. President Trump and his administration need to stop traumatizing children and families. We have a responsibility to protect families fleeing violence and poverty, no matter who they are, or where they come from," said End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin's Executive Director, Patti Seger.

Although President Trump's Executive Order ended the practice of separating children from their families, it did not end the jailing of children and families at the border. Based on a 1997 Supreme Court ruling, families cannot be detained together for more than 20 days. The Executive Order did not address this ruling, meaning that children could still be separated from their families after 20 days. Additionally, the over 2,000 children separated from their families since the practice began were notably absent from the President's order.

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End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the leading voice for victims of domestic abuse in Wisconsin. At End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, we educate shelter and program volunteers and advocates, law enforcement, legislators, and community members to provide safety and support to survivors. We strive to shift Wisconsin from the attitudes and beliefs that cause domestic violence to values of mutual respect and equality, and we partner with communities in the effort to prevent and end domestic abuse.

We encourage reporters to include the National Domestic Violence Hotline number [1-800-799-SAFE (7233)] in their stories for victims who need help. A list of local Wisconsin domestic violence victim service providers can be found at <http://www.endabusewi.org>.