

## **When Parents Are Deported**

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To the Editor:

"**Deporting Parents** Hurts Kids," by Hirokazu Yoshikawa and Carola Suarez-Orozco (Op-Ed, April 21), highlights the trauma of children whose **parents** are **deported**. Every day, thousands of detained and **deported** immigrant **parents** live in fear of permanent separation from their children. This is especially true when children enter the child welfare system because their **parents** are in immigration custody.

I have talked to countless detained **parents** with children in child welfare care, and most tell me that they would accept **deportation** if they knew they could preserve their relationship with their children. But immigration and child welfare laws and practices do not facilitate this, prompting many **parents** to return to the United States after **deportation** in an effort to reunite with their children.

Congress and the administration must enact policies that uphold immigrant **parents**' parental rights. Such policies would be both humane and effective, while honoring the family values that this country holds in high regard.

EMILY BUTERA Senior Program Officer, Detention and Asylum, Women's Refugee Commission Washington, April 22, 2012

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