



## Smith Statement on Family Detention

May 15, 2015 | Press Release

*Congressman Smith released the following statement in response to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) [announced action](#) on family detention centers:*

"ICE's announced action to improve oversight and conditions at family detention centers misses the point. It is wrong and irresponsible for our government to continue detaining children and their mothers. We must not ignore that jailing children can have devastating impacts on a child's development and cause serious psychological harm to these families. We have less expensive and more humane alternatives to detention to monitor families while still adequately managing their cases. Our government must focus on utilizing these alternatives, and I will continue to advocate for policies that do so. We need to get out of the business of detaining children and their mothers."