

ARP Statement Regarding the Separation of Children From Their Families
June 19, 2018

Although the ARP board has not received inquiries about the potential effect of separating children from their families, we are practicing psychological scientists with knowledge of the relevant literatures on early childhood development, the impact of life events on personality development, and the long term outcomes associated with institutional care. We are aware of no research showing that a policy of separating children from their parents at the border for indeterminate lengths of time would have a positive effect on any of the parties involved. Instead, we are acutely aware that the preponderance of research indicates that the effect would be consistently negative for all parties involved. We believe this is an immoral, unethical, and unconscionable policy and we call for it to be ended immediately.