

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, March 14, 2022

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***** Interviews available in both Spanish, English and Haitian Creole ****

Republican Legislators Waste \$12 million Taxpayer Dollars on DeSantis' Political Agenda

FLORIDA — The Florida Immigrant Coalition stands in solidarity with activists who took action against Governor Ron DeSantis and state legislators, who prioritized wealthy corporations and their personal political aspirations over the good and the will of Floridians. Republican state legislators approved SB1808, an anti-immigrant bill that targets immigrant children and their families, despite unanimous opposition from faith groups, religious leaders, Pedro Pan refugees, educators, and business leaders. They also allocated \$12M in the state budget towards expelling the state of immigrant families, while rejecting opportunities to close corporate tax loopholes and passing policies and tax breaks for corporations that undermine our elections, like Florida Power & Light. Republican leadership also failed to protect Florida renters facing skyrocketing housing costs, communities on the front lines of the climate emergency, or working parents facing steep childcare costs. They simply served as political pawns to Governor Ron Desantis's personal ambitions.

Everyday in Florida, you hear the pain of families facing real issues, while the world watches images of civilians displaced all over the world due to war. Yet our state legislators pushed forward with SB1808 which mandates that local law enforcement contracts with ICE and prohibits state and local governments from contracting with businesses that transport unaccompanied immigrant children seeking shelter and family reunification, imposing penalties on legitimate transportation companies.

The following is a statement from Isabel Vinent, from the Florida Immigrant Coalition:

“At a time when Floridians are facing skyrocketing costs, it is outrageous Republican lawmakers issued \$12M of our money in the Department of Transportation for a de facto immigration force to expel Florida's immigrant workforce. We don't even properly invest in public transportation in this state, yet here is \$12M for another cruel political stunt. Like so many other bills this session, this one is a 'bad solution in search of a problem,' when both Floridians and the international community are desperately seeking to protect children. The bills and the state budget should reflect our needs, not corporate greed nor cruelty against our communities. We applaud our legislative champions who fought alongside us. Those that failed us, we'll see you at the courts and at the polls.”

ALL people have rights, regardless of their immigration status. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.
Anyone who wants more information about their constitutional rights when in contact with law

enforcement or border patrol should call the FLIC Immigrant Hotline to review their rights in Spanish, English and Haitian Creole: 1-888-600-5762.

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