

http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/06/sen_jeff_merkley_denied_entry.html

<http://www.newsweek.com/ceo-non-profit-shelter-called-police-senator-trying-visit-detained-children-956802>

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 85 and other Community organizations and members are FINALLY getting traction about the issue that has been in place since the 1980's...those policies approved and implemented by the federal government to: 1. imprison those without legal status in the United States and 2. separate children from their family members.

Corporations, both not-for-profit (Southwest Key) and for-profit (GEO and CCA) have received millions and BILLIONS of our tax dollars to support these policies and have been criticized via news articles, human rights investigations, elected officials, etc for many years.

We are at a critical juncture in our country's history whereby we must stand up FOR social justice and morale principles, decry basic human rights violations, incorporate open and transparent practices, and modify/create immigration policies/laws to "fix" legalization and pathways to citizenship for the population currently covered by DACA and others that could be protected under other aspects of the existing/future laws/policies.

It is also important to recognize that these organizations are negotiating with local and state governmental entities to further expand economic development opportunities in other areas such as supports for charter schools, landscape training and contracting, workforce development, etc. that contribute to the privatization of services that further impede accountability and performance standards that MUST be incorporated into contracts and made available to the public. We must "follow the money" to those corporate boards that deny access to information by claiming that they are protected from the public view due to their corporate status and therefore hinder public entities from accessing historical and relevant information/data so that informed decisions can be made by those local governing public board/commission members. It is also important to note that many of their Directors/Founders are considered Community Leaders and ALL must be held responsible for their actions hidden from the public in a corporate setting using public dollars.

LULAC respectfully requests that this issue be placed on the next agenda for the Latino/Hispanic Quality of Life Commission for an official vote. LULAC will also be forwarding a Resolution to the City Council for appropriate action and requests your support and assistance in this endeavor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Valadez