



20 WEST STREET, BOSTON, MA 02111-1204 • COMMUNICATIONS@MASSBAR.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 20, 2018

**CONTACT:** Cameron Woodcock, MBA Media and Communications Manager, (617) 338-0675

## **Massachusetts Bar Association President: End Border Policy that Separates Children from Parents**

**BOSTON** - Massachusetts Bar Association President Christopher P. Sullivan calls upon the Trump Administration to rescind the “zero-tolerance” immigration policy that results in the separation of migrant children from their parents at our borders.

“There is simply no justification to the inhumane and abhorrent practice of taking children away from parents seeking a new life in the United States. Medical experts from such organizations as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association have equated the policy to a form of child abuse, because of the harmful, lifelong mental health consequences that forced family separation is likely to have on minor children. The policy is equally objectionable on legal grounds, as it denies asylum seekers the due process that is at the heart of our fair system of justice.

“Abusing children for political gain or legislative leverage will always be immoral and antithetical to long-standing American values. Border security and public safety can still be addressed by fair and humane immigration policies that do not needlessly destroy families in the process.

“We urge the president to direct the Department of Homeland Security to end this policy immediately and quickly reunite the thousands of children taken from their parents. We also call upon Congress to fix our immigration laws so that this harmful and regressive practice never happens again.”

*Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.*