



LAWG Denounces Biden's Plan to Detain Migrant Families

The Latin America Working Group (LAWG) denounces President Biden's proposed plan to restart detaining migrant families when the controversial Title 42 health program permitting immediate expulsion of migrants ends in May. A [New York Times article](#) reported March 6, 2023 that the administration is planning "more restrictive measures as it struggles to handle a rise in migrants fleeing authoritarian governments and economic ruin in their countries."

The plan to revive the detention of migrant families is an alarming and stark reversal by the Biden Administration, which had ended this inhumane leftover of the previous administration in its first year in office. Administration officials have the unfounded expectation that implementing this cruel and cold-hearted practice will deter migrant families from trying to enter the United States when all evidence states that deterrence does not work, is psychologically damaging and is a cost to American taxpayers. According to border expert [Adam Isacson](#), for example, the Customs and Border Police (CBP) detained roughly 52,652 family members on average per month since the beginning of the Biden Administration. In January, the CBP encountered 38,308 members of migrant families. Deterrence does not work and will not fix the broken immigration system.

"The Biden Administration appears to be considering bringing back these failed and cruel policies despite knowing quite well that these families are fleeing failed states, endemic corruption, and lack of economic opportunity," said Lisa Haugaard, executive director of LAWG. She added, "This policy risks forcing parents to send their children over the border alone to face in the United States the same exploitation and violence from which they fled. I urge President Biden to abandon this cruel detention plan and refocus resources towards addressing root causes, including using diplomacy and aid to support respect for human rights, strengthening the rule of law, inclusive economic development and much needed social programs."