

SPN Responds to Impact of Separating Children from their Caregivers

The Society of Pediatric Nurses joins the multitude of voices speaking out against separation of children from families at the United States border. There is ample evidence supporting the need for infants and children to form attachments with caregivers and to remain in their care throughout childhood. As pediatric nurses, the family is our unit of care: the paramount achievement of the last 3 decades in our discipline has been our commitment to help families to remain together even in the direst circumstances. Children need their parents at all times - when they are ill, when they are dying, and when they are frightened. Disruption of the attachment process can result in measurable changes at the neural level and immeasurable harm to psychosocial growth and the ability to build and maintain relationships. A fracture of this nature can cascade into depression, anxiety, and, in extreme cases, violent behavior and criminal psychopathology. As the study of adverse childhood experiences intensifies, the physical and long-term ramifications of trauma in childhood are hard to ignore.

Therefore, the Society of Pediatric Nurses joins the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Health Organization, Nursing Community Coalition, NAPNAP, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Public Health Association in stating unequivocally that the separation of children from their parents as they cross the border into the United States is a harmful practice with the potential for multigenerational implications. Swift physical and legislative provisions for keeping children with their parents are both benevolent and necessary.

About the Society of Pediatric Nurses

Founded in the mid 1980's, the Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN) represents a worldwide network of over 3,000 pediatric nurses across 28 specializations from across the United States and across the world. The society provides educational resources, practice resources, publications, events, seminars, industry data and research and networking opportunities that are developed specifically for those within the pediatric nursing industry and help to support job excellence and success in their practice setting.

For more information, please visit www.pedsnurses.org

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