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Orlin's Law Introduced to Protect Immigrant Families and Uphold Parental Rights Amid Immigration Enforcement

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Rep. Pramila Jayapal introduced 'Orlin's Law', legislation aimed at protecting children and preserving family unity when parents are impacted by immigration enforcement actions. The bill establishes critical safeguards to ensure that parents are not unnecessarily separated from their children, can continue making decisions about their children's care, and have meaningful access to due process.

Named in honor of 3 year-old Orlin Josue Hernandez Reyes, who was separated from his mother during the immigration process and later lost his life while outside her care, **this legislation seeks to prevent similar tragedies by keeping families safely together** whenever possible. Orlin's Law recognizes that a parent's immigration status should not determine their ability to care for their child. The legislation strengthens protections for families by prioritizing community-based case management programs that allow parents to remain with their children in safe, supportive environments while navigating their legal proceedings. These programs uphold family unity while connecting families with essential services and ensuring that immigration processes do not cause unnecessary harm.

The provisions in Orlin's Law ensure that parents impacted by immigration enforcement can maintain relationships with their children, participate in family court and child welfare proceedings, and make informed decisions about their children's care. The bill also establishes procedures for parents who wish to be removed with their children, ensuring that family decisions are made by families and not by the failures of an immigration system.

Importantly, Orlin's Law creates a fail-safe for due process by requiring remedies when the government does not provide the protections required under the law and a parent is removed while their child remains in the United States. When these safeguards are not followed, the bill requires the government to facilitate reunification in the United States in a community-based setting when desired by the parent. It also ensures parents can make necessary arrangements for their children, including participating in family court or child welfare proceedings. These accountability measures recognize that when the government's failure separates families, the government has a responsibility to help repair that harm.

By investing in community-based alternatives, preserving parental rights, and creating accountability mechanisms, Orlin's Law advances the principle that legal rights and family bonds must be protected regardless of where a person is in the immigration process.

Keeli Sorensen, Policy Director at Justice in Motion: “The measure of a fair system is not only how it responds after harm occurs, but what it does to prevent that harm in the first place. Orin’s Law creates a pathway toward a more humane process: one where parents can care for their children in safe environments while their cases proceed, and where the government is held accountable when it fails to provide the protections families are guaranteed.”

For all media inquiries, please contact media@justiceinmotion.org.

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[Justice in Motion](#) protects migrant rights by ensuring justice across borders. Our unique network of on-the-ground human rights defenders in Mexico and Central America partner with U.S. advocates to make sure that wherever migrants go, their rights will follow.