



Stop Shackling and Detaining Pregnant Women Act

- This bill prevents women from being detained using restrictive restraints while pregnant or during postpartum recovery.
- We estimate that this bill would not have a significant fiscal impact because it only requires alternative forms of security, such as more security guards.

MAP's Perspective on H.R. 3563

MAP supports this bill because it establishes a set of standards that ensure that the human dignity and physical needs of pregnant women are respected and maintained. This bill resolves a small part of the larger issue of the unethical treatment of immigrants in detention. At our most vulnerable, we are treated with basic respect and dignity, and we believe this treatment should be extended to pregnant immigrant women as well.

Youth Perspective on Immigration

As youth, we rely heavily on our mothers and entrust that their well-being is cared for as much as they care for ours. Women are already in a vulnerable position while pregnant, and additional restraints only add to their difficulties and discomfort. Yet, exemplified by the shackles and restraints used extensively by detainment centers, mothers are not treated with the respect that they deserve.

There is a very small amount of data available about the amount of pregnant women detained and how they are taken care of. This fact demonstrates how little is known about how pregnant women are being treated and emphasizes the need for information and transparency of the real events that are happening in detention centers.

Catholic Perspective on this Issue

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Church opposes the practice of detaining immigrants and specifically focuses on the negative impacts on families and children. We believe that it is the obligation of societal institutions to ensure that their natural right to human dignity is preserved. It is the government's responsibility to ensure that the value of every human life is acknowledged, including immigrants in detention centers. We must especially fulfill our duty to look out for society's most vulnerable, such as immigrant women and their children.

