Dear Faith Leader:

Many of you know about the **SCAR Act: The Separation of Children Accountability Response Act**, and many of you know that we have only a few weeks to make sure that it has the support it needs in the New York State Senate and in the New York State Assembly.

We want to thank all of you for the work you've done to get this important piece of legislation to this place.

Now, we are asking each of you to reach out to your local papers, across New York state, to publish Letters to the Editor, so that we can spread the details and urgency of this legislation.

You will find below a template for such a letter.

Please feel free to personalize your own letters for your outreach, but please do use this information to reach out to any media outlets in your vicinity.

In solidarity and hope,
Rev. Micah Bucey
Multi-Faith Coordinator, New Sanctuary Coalition

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TEMPLATE:

Dear [ ]:

It has been a year since President Trump made official his “Zero Tolerance” immigration policy, giving a name to the horrific practice of immigrant family separation, which had been going on for months. A year later, questions remain: Why do we **still** not know with certainty how many parents and children were separated a year ago? Why do we **still** not know with certainty how many remain separated in New York State, let alone in the rest of the country?

To respond to these questions with action, faith leaders and their allies across New York State are calling on the state legislature to pass the SCAR Act: The Separation of Children Accountability Response Act. The SCAR Act calls for transparency from state-certified foster care agencies regarding how many separated and unaccompanied children are in their care at any given time.

The passing of the SCAR Act is only the beginning of a much-needed accountability process, requiring a bare minimum of transparency regarding the number of separated children detained in our state. It is a small, but necessary, first step to restoring these children to their families and to repairing a corrupted system. It is a replicable model for restoration and repair in all states.

New York has an opportunity to lead the United States on this issue. The trauma, fear, and neglect that these children have suffered is proof enough that Trump’s “Zero Tolerance” policy is a bad weed with poisonous fruit. All people of conscience must commit themselves to uprooting this weed in New York State and across the country. The SCAR Act is the first step.

Sincerely,

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