



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact:

Courtney Lewis, Deputy Director  
717-600-8099 x205 (office)

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***President Trump addresses nation on humanitarian crisis and border security at southern border on 18<sup>th</sup> day of government shutdown***

**Statement from Mary Studzinski, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center:**

The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC), a nonprofit organization founded on the belief of fair and equitable treatment of immigrants in the United States, knows that persons come to the United States for three primary reasons: to be with family, for a better life economically, or for safety due to fleeing persecution and violence. A sensible approach to immigration policies would be to construct an immigration system, through changes in our laws, that meet our nation's national security, economic, family and humanitarian needs. Building a wall is not the answer. We believe it is possible to secure our national borders while remaining a nation that is welcoming to immigrants and a haven for those fleeing violence and persecution. We believe in a balanced and commonsense approach to immigration and we remain undeterred in our support of immigrant families.

**About PIRC:**

PIRC was founded in 1996 on the principles of service and access to justice in response to the indefinite detention of the refugees of the Golden Venture. PIRC's work is focused on giving voice to the most vulnerable immigrants in detention and in our community. PIRC provides free, legal services, education, and advocacy to help vulnerable, indigent immigrants obtain or protect their legal status. PIRC serves two immigration detention facilities, nine counties within south central Pennsylvania and other communities in Pennsylvania. To learn more about PIRC visit [www.pirclaw.org](http://www.pirclaw.org).

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