6 Ways to Take Action to #ShutDownBerks

Children thrive within the safe and loving presence of their families and communities. They should not be imprisoned at detention centers such as Berks, where they suffer severe trauma. Governor Wolf has the power to stand up for these families by issuing an Emergency Removal Order (ERO), which would end Pennsylvania’s support of family detention and help these families get one step closer to freedom.

Action #1: Make a Call (or two)

The Shut Down Berks Coalition coordinates a monthly call-in day on the 3rd Weds. of the month, but you don’t have to wait!

- Organize a call-in day over lunch with co-workers
- Add calling the Governor to your weekly schedule

Sample Script:

“I believe that families should be together, and children should be safe and cared for. As long as the Berks Detention Center remains open, Pennsylvania is not living up to those values. You have the power to issue an Emergency Removal Order on the Berks County Detention Center, and show your commitment to create a state where all children are valued and safe from harm and families can thrive. Please issue the ERO now!”

- Governor Tom Wolf (717-787-2500)
- PA DHS Secretary Miller (717-787-2600)
- Lt. Governor Fetterman (717-787-3300)

Action #2: Write a Letter or a Postcard

Write a letter or postcard and tell the Governor and his administration in your own words why you want him to Shut Down Berks and end family detention in Pennsylvania.

- Organize a letter writing party and spend time with friends while writing a letter.
- Get a package of pre-stamped postcards and send one every time you read something about Berks or family detention.

Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

PA Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Action #3: Visit the Governor

Get a few friends or colleagues together and schedule a visit to the Governor’s office.

Harrisburg: 508 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120
Northeast: 2 N. Main Street Pittston, PA 18640
Northwest: 100 State Street, Suite 205, Erie, PA 16507

Southeast: 110 N. 8th Street Suite 505, Philadelphia PA 19107
Southwest: 301 5th Avenue Piatt Place, Room 240, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
**Action #4: Send a Video Message**

Take one minute to send a video message to the Governor or Secretary of PA DHS using your social media accounts.

**Step 1:** Take out your phone and put it on selfie mode.

**Step 2:** Record a short message of 30-60 seconds long. Sample script:

“As a resident of Pennsylvania, I believe families should be together, and children should be free. As long as the Berks Detention Center remains open, Pennsylvania is not living up to those values. Governor Wolf and Secretary Miller, you need to issue an Emergency Removal Order and Shut Down Berks today!”

**Step 3:** Post the message to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or any other social media platform. Use #ShutDownBerks and #EndFamilyDetention and tag @GovernorTomWolf @JohnFetterman and @SecretaryMiller to make sure they see your message!

**Action #5: Organize a Local Event**

Help spread the word by organizing a local event!

- Host a candlelight vigil in a central location in your town and read some of the statements from families who have been detained.
- Put together a presentation for your church group, neighborhood association, or book club using the #ShutDownBerks Video Series and campaign materials.
- Ask your city council to issue a resolution calling on the Governor to issue an Emergency Removal Order.

Use materials posted on the Shut Down Berks Campaign website to make your event a success: http://paimmigrant.org/campaign-to-shut-down-berks/

**Action #6: Support the Campaign!**

Get the latest updates on the campaign by following us on social media and signing up for our newsletter.

Twitter: @ShutDownBerks
Facebook: @ShutDownBerksCoalition
Instagram: @ShutDownBerksCoalition
Text: 717-500-1852

Support the organizing efforts by donating at https://freemigrationproject.org/shut-down-berks-campaign/

Please feel free to contact us regarding any of the above information at shutdownberks@gmail.com.

In Solidarity,
The Shut Down Berks Coalition