We must see this myth for what it is – a fear-based narrative meant to criminalize rather than support young people – and learn from the history of reform in the youth justice system to see that increased policing and detention are NOT the answer when young people in our communities need support.


3 See e.g., U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Joint Operation nets 24 transnational gang members, 475 total arrests under Operation Matador (Mar. 29, 2018), https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/joint-operation-nets-24-transnational-gang-members-475-total-arrests-under-operation ("Ninety-nine individuals arrested during this operation crossed the border as unaccompanied minors, all of which were confirmed as MS-13 gang members.").

4 Hannah Dreier, I’ve been Reporting on MS-13 for a Year. Here Are the 5 Things Trump Gets Most Wrong (June 25, 2018), ProPublica, https://www.propublica.org/article/ms-13-immigration-facts-what-trump-administration-gets-wrong (stating: “Trump’s Justice Department says there are about 10,000 MS-13 members in the U.S., the same number as 10 years ago.”).