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Ms. Michelle DeLaune
President and CEO
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
333 John Carlyle St. Suite #125
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. DeLaune:

Thank you again for testifying at the February 6 Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education hearing titled "Protecting Missing and Exploited Children." Enclosed are additional questions submitted by Subcommittee members following the hearing. Please provide a written response no later than **March 18, 2024**, for inclusion in the hearing record. Responses should be sent to Eli Mitchell (eli.mitchell@mail.house.gov) of the Committee staff; he can be contacted at (202) 603-2444.

We appreciate your contribution to the work of the subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Aaron Bean
Chairman
U.S. House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education
Committee on Education and the Workforce

Representative Rick Allen (R-GA-12)

1. The Department of Justice National Missing and Unidentified Persons System lists 725 remains of unidentified children. Your organization has a forensics services unit, and in a recent Newsweek article, John Bishoff praised new DNA testing, FGG, that is solving many of these cases.
 - a) Question A: If technology can solve these cases, what, if anything, is preventing NCMEC from identifying all 725 children?
 - b) Question B: How many minors have been identified using FGG technology? And how many cases solved by FGG technology were funded by NCMEC?"

Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL-24)

Question(s) for Witness Michelle DeLaune

1. We know that there is a disproportionate representation of children of color who are missing, as compared to their numbers in the population, and who are at risk for exploitation.

From 2016 to 2020, 31% of children reported missing to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children during this time period were Black, while only making up 14% of the U.S. population.

- a) What can you share about the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children experience in working on this issue and the disparities you see?
 - b) How are you working collaboratively with partners on this matter?
2. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline is an online portal that receives reports from the public and electronic service providers like Google and TikTok about incidents of suspected child sexual exploitation, including child sexual abuse material, child sex trafficking, and online enticement of children for sexual acts.

In 2023, the CyberTipline received a staggering 36 million reports. While federal law requires electronic service providers like TikTok and Google to report when they have actual knowledge of a violation of child exploitation, it doesn't require them proactively examine their platforms for this material or even require a substantive report to be made to the CyberTipline.

- a) Can you explain the impact of these gaps in federal policy on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's work?
 - b) How many reports do you receive that are unactionable? Can you give us an example of what a report looks like that meets current federal requirements but fails to provide the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with meaningful information?
3. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has reported that in 2022, 21,494 out of 27,644 missing children are or were in state care. Yet, a great portion of missing children in state care is unreported.

We have laws in place that require state child welfare agencies to report missing children to both law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

- a) What supports do state child welfare agencies need to meet their legal obligations and accurately report the number of missing children in their systems?

Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MN)

Questions for Witness Michelle DeLaune

1. According to the National Crime Information Center, in 2020, of the 268,884 girls and women report missing, 90,333, or nearly 34%, were Black. This is extremely concerning, given that Black girls and women make up only 14% of the U.S. female population. Nationally, cases involving Black girls and women stay open four times longer than other cases on average. These statistics paint a devastating picture of the magnitude of the issue of missing and murdered Black women and girls.
 - a) Ms. DeLaune, in addition to supporting the work that your organization does, what else could Congress do to address these stark statistics and focus resources on communities that are disproportionately impacted?

2. Last year, I introduced a bill, [*H.R. 6828 – The Brittany Clardy Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Act*](#), which would establish an Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls within the Department of Justice to help prioritize and strengthen national efforts in countering such disparities.
 - a) Ms. DeLaune, could this legislation improve the efficacy and coordination of the federal government to equitably address this issue?