



Association of
American Medical Colleges
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399
T 202 828 0400
aamc.org

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to pass the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (GME) Support Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5385) and the Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency Readiness (EMPOWER) Act of 2017 (H.R. 3728).

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members are all 151 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 173,000 full-time faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

As physician workforce shortages are projected to grow across all specialties — up to 121,300 total physicians by 2030 — continued robust funding for graduate medical education is critical to ensure patient access to care. As you know, the CHGME program provides necessary support for the training programs at children's hospitals across the country that produce general pediatricians and pediatric specialists. By reauthorizing the CHGME program for five years and increasing the authorization level for the program to \$325 million per year, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act will help ensure children have access to the care they need.

Equally important, Title VII health professions programs are a petri dish for innovation that prepare our current and future physician workforce to respond to the nation's constantly changing health care needs. Title VII programs increase the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health care workforce and improve access to and quality of care for vulnerable populations — including children and families living on low incomes, veterans, seniors, and individuals in underserved communities. We greatly appreciate your efforts to reauthorize the Title VII

The Honorable Greg Walden and Frank Pallone

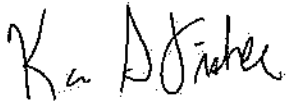
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programs under the EMPOWER Act to ensure these programs continue to help shape our health care workforce. At the same time, we continue to urge appropriators to provide at least \$424 million for the Title VII programs in FY 2019.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support of these critical health care workforce programs and urge the Committee to pass both H.R. 5385 and H.R. 3728. We look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer



600 13TH ST., NW, SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
p | 202-753-5500
f | 202-347-5147

16011 COLLEGE BLVD., SUITE 250
LENEXA, KS 66219
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f | 913-262-1575

WWW.CHILDRENSHOSPITALS.ORG

July 10, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of children's hospitals and the patients and families we serve, we urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to pass H.R. 5385, The Children's Hospitals GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018, introduced by Reps. Gene Green and Michael Burgess. This important bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program for an additional five years and strengthen federal support for vital pediatric training programs.

The CHGME program funds the training of pediatric providers at eligible children's hospitals. CHGME was created in 1999 because Congress recognized that a dedicated source of support for training in children's hospitals was necessary to strengthen the pediatric workforce. Since enactment, the CHGME program has enabled children's hospitals to dramatically increase training overall, and in particular grow the supply of pediatric specialists — the area of greatest shortage in children's health care. The 58 children's hospitals that receive CHGME — only 1 percent of all hospitals — train approximately half of the nation's pediatricians, more than 7,000 annually.

While CHGME has a track record of success, much remains to be done. Nationally, workforce shortages persist — most acutely among pediatric subspecialties — though localized shortages in pediatric primary care also continue in certain areas. Additionally, the average CHGME payment per full-time equivalent (FTE) resident represents only about half of what Medicare GME provides to support training at general acute care hospitals. The Children's Hospitals GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018 would help Congress address this funding shortfall by increasing the authorization level for CHGME to \$325 million a year.

Congress, including the Energy and Commerce Committee, has a long track record of bipartisan support for the CHGME program. In 2014, Rep. Pallone was a lead cosponsor on the current CHGME program authorization legislation, which passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan

Champions for Children's Health

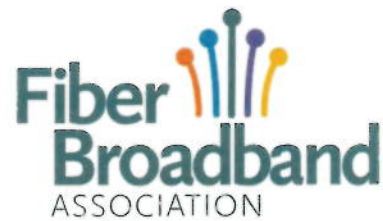
support. Likewise, H.R. 5385 has attracted strong bipartisan support, and we are hopeful that Congress will again be able to reaffirm its commitment to the program.

Reauthorizing the CHGME program is vital to taking a step forward in kids' health. Children's hospitals urge passage of H.R. 5385, The Children's Hospitals GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Wietecha". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mark Wietecha
President and Chief Executive Officer
Children's Hospital Association



Accelerating the Connected Future

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: July 12, 2018 Committee Markup of H.R. 3994, ACCESS BROADBAND Act

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Fiber Broadband Association, I am writing in support H.R. 3994, The Advancing Critical Connectivity Expands Service, Small Business Resources, Opportunities, Access and Data Based on Assessed Need and Demand Act (ACCESS BROADBAND Act). This legislation, authored by Representatives Tonko and Lance, creates the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and directs it to engage in various activities including to assist communities in obtaining high-speed broadband service and streamline the process for accessing federal support.

In 2015, NTIA initiated the BroadbandUSA program to assist communities in obtaining the broadband connectivity they need to foster economic development, enhance education and health care, and support public safety. The Fiber Broadband Association supports this program, which has the same aim as our Community Toolkit, launched five years ago. Because of our shared mission, we have developed a good working relationship with NTIA to help communities get the broadband infrastructure they need. We can testify to the value of these activities, and we therefore are heartened by the Energy and Commerce Committee's consideration of the ACCESS BROADBAND Act, which was reported by the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology last month. The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth that the draft would establish will not only carry on the activities of the BroadbandUSA program, but also expand them to track, streamline, and coordinate federal broadband support programs – which NTIA is already working on as part of the Administration's interagency effort. These activities are critical to ensuring that limited federal support is awarded, as the draft directs, "in an efficient, technology-neutral, and financially sustainable manner" to locations that are truly unserved.

We urge the Committee to report the ACCESS BROADBAND Act and to press for a vote by the full House as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa R. Youngers".

Lisa Youngers, Executive Director
Fiber Broadband Association

MARIA KORSNICK

President and Chief Executive Officer

1201 F Street NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20004

P: 202.739.8187

mjk@nei.org

nei.org



July 11, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the commercial nuclear energy industry, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI¹) expresses its support for the Nuclear Utilization of Keynote Energy Act (H.R. 1320, the NUKE Act), Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Act (H.R. 6140), and the Advancing U.S. Civil Nuclear Competitiveness and Jobs Act.

These bills appropriately recognize the important role nuclear energy plays in providing reliable, carbon-free electricity here at home and around the world. NEI and its members appreciate Congress's action to ensure that nuclear energy continues to be a significant contributor to our nation's standard of living, national security, economic growth, and influence in the international arena.

The bipartisan NUKE Act takes well-justified and timely steps to reform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's funding structure. Although we are encouraged by and supportive of the NRC's recent efforts to reduce its budget as part of Project Aim, licensee fees continue to be excessive and do not reflect the agency's decreased workload. Because licensees are responsible for funding 90 percent of the agency's budget, licensees are obligated to pay even more in fees when reactors and fuel cycle facilities close prematurely.

These problems are exacerbated by a lack of transparency and predictability in the fee assessment process. NRC's schedules for completing licensing reviews are rarely made available, making it difficult if not impossible for licensees to anticipate overall costs, or determine whether reviews are being conducted timely or effectively. NRC invoices also typically lack detail, which limits licensees' ability to question charges invoiced for undefined project management activities. NEI strongly supports these

¹ The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is responsible for establishing unified policy on behalf of its members relating to matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI's members include entities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect and engineering firms, fuel cycle facilities, nuclear materials licensees, and other organizations involved in the nuclear energy industry.

Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone
July 11, 2018
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sound public policy approaches within the NUKE Act, which seeks to reform the Commission's outdated fee structure, ensure transparency in the billing process and streamline license reviews so that we can successfully build the reactors of the future.

Powered by American innovation and ingenuity, development of the next generation of advanced nuclear reactors is underway. Many of these advanced reactors will require High-Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU), which is uranium enriched between 5% and 20%. Currently, commercial nuclear fuel suppliers, with the possible exception of Russia, can only produce uranium enriched to 5%. The bipartisan Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Act (H.R. 6140) appropriately directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to make HALEU available for domestic commercial use. Having access to HALEU is essential for American companies to successfully develop the next generation of nuclear reactors, and NEI strongly supports this legislation.

Around the world, there are 56 nuclear reactors under construction, and more than half of those are being built by either the Russians or the Chinese. Over six decades ago, the United States developed nuclear power, established international nonproliferation and safety standards and earned its place as the world's leader in the technology. The Advancing U.S. Civil Nuclear Competitiveness and Jobs Act would help ensure that American companies have the tools they need to compete fairly in nuclear tenders throughout the world. As an emphasis continues to be placed on clean energy, countries around the globe are pursuing nuclear power for the carbon-free reliable electricity it produces. This bill helps to ensure American companies are at the table with our foreign competitors so that we can continue to provide our technology and, in doing so, set international nonproliferation, security and safety standards for years to come.

On behalf of NEI and its members, I thank the Committee for supporting these bills, which collectively support the United States nuclear industry. Their passage will provide environmental and economic benefits to all Americans by helping to retain the generation source responsible for 20 percent of the electricity and well over half of the nation's carbon-free electricity. Finally, they will assist in establishing necessary conditions for development and deployment of American advanced nuclear reactor technologies here and abroad. NEI supports the passage of these bills and urges swift consideration of the measures on the House floor.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Korsnick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maria Korsnick



Telecommunications Industry Association

1320 N. Courthouse Road Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22201

703-907-7700 · tiaonline.org

July 11, 2018

Chairman Bob Latta
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and
Consumer Protection
U.S. House of Representatives

Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and
Consumer Protection
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Schakowsky,

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) commends the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee for its leadership in promoting policies that foster innovation and the advancement of the Internet of Things (IoT). TIA writes in support of the **State of Modern Application, Research and Trends of IoT Act (SMART IoT Act), H.R. 6032**, and urges the Subcommittee to advance this legislation during this week's markup.

The IoT sector is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth with projections estimating that the number of connected devices worldwide could grow to over 50 billion by the year 2020. This rapid proliferation of connectivity presents new challenges, impacting a wide range of diverse communities. Government agencies and organizations alike must work in tandem to find new solutions and build new tools to make our world ready for the innovations of tomorrow. To efficiently and effectively address these challenges, policymakers must promote a flexible regulatory framework based on a common understanding of the vast IoT landscape.

The SMART IoT Act would direct the Department of Commerce to convene experts from across government and industry to provide a report on the state of IoT, which in turn would help to harmonize current policy efforts and promote enhanced collaboration moving forward. The report would help coordinate federal efforts aimed at using IoT to facilitate more efficient and data-driven consumer, enterprise, and government activities. Better coordination will help to advance innovation, spur investment, and support a common horizontal policy framework that applies across markets and use cases.

As the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology – including IoT technology – TIA applauds the Subcommittee for taking a leading role in adopting policies to help promote the IoT industry. We appreciate your work on this legislation and look forward to continued progress in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cinnamon Rogers", is written over a horizontal line.

Cinnamon Rogers
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Telecommunications Industry Association

Draft Itinerary
CODEL to South Texas

Saturday, June 23, 2018

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
7:00 am	Breakfast available in hotel lobby DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel McAllen 1800 S 2nd St, McAllen, TX 78503
7:40 am	Depart for McAllen Border Patrol Station CBP providing transportation
8:00 am	Participants arrive at the McAllen Border Patrol Station 3000 W Military Highway, McAllen, TX 78503 Met by: Chief Patrol Agent Manuel Padilla, Jr. and Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Raul Ortiz
8:05 am	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Shift</i> and <i>End of Year</i> Video Presentations• Operational brief Led by: CPA Padilla• BP 101 Detention brief Led by: Executive Officer Monique Grame
8:25 am	Participants are split into smaller groups for walking tours.
GROUP A	
8:30 am	Group A will depart on walking tour of McAllen Border Patrol Station 3000 W Military Hwy, McAllen, TX 78503
9:00 am	Group A walking tour of the Centralized Processing Center Led by: Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Carmen Qualia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intake and Processing• Virtual Processing• Family and UAJ Holding Area• ICE/ERO
GROUP B	
8:30 am	Group B departs on walking tour of Centralized Processing Center 3700 West Ursula Avenue, McAllen, TX 78503 Led by: Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Carmen Qualia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intake and Processing• Virtual Processing• Family and UAJ Holding Area• ICE/ERO
9:00 am	Group B departs on tour of McAllen Border Patrol Station
9:30 am	Groups A and B tours conclude

9:35 am Press gaggle

10:30 am Press time concludes

10:40 am Depart for Port Isabel ICE Detention Center, lunch en route
ICE providing transportation

12:40 pm Arrive at Port Isabel ICE Detention Center
27991 Buena Vista Blvd, Los Fresnos, TX 78566

12:45 pm Welcome and Introduction

12:55 pm Tour Port Isabel ICE Detention Center

2:30 pm Depart for Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport
700 Amelia Earhart Dr, Brownsville, TX 78521

3:10 pm Arrive at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport

3:15 pm Press gathering

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Azar and Secretary Nielsen:

The Administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the border is deeply concerning and it goes against our nation's values and long history as a land of immigrants. As we learn more about the devastating effects of President Trump's zero tolerance policy, we are seeing more and more images of some of the children that are being detained. Based on these images, many have raised concerns about the status of young girls who have been separated at the border. The American people have a right to know what is being done to ensure that these young girls are safe and being properly cared for.

On June 18, 2018, Secretary Nielsen was unable to speak to the whereabouts and living conditions for the many girls, toddlers, and infants who have been separated from their families at the border. According to data released by the Department of Homeland Security, almost 2,000 children have been separated from their parents and placed under supervision of HHS in accordance with the Trump Administration's current immigration policy.

Disturbingly, the photos and videos released as of the date of this letter only show boys, and only boys age 10 and up. We are asking for a formal answer to these and other questions regarding the status of children being detained by DHS and HHS.

- How many total girls are under the supervision of DHS and HHS? How many facilities are there? What is the budget for each facility?
- How has HHS ensured that the facilities housing girls are safe, clean, and age appropriate? When will HHS allow access or provide visual evidence of the status of these girls and the facility conditions?
- What precautions are being taken to keep young girls protected from exploitation?
- Who is taking care of infant and toddlers who have been separated from their mothers and can no longer be breastfed?

- How are DHS and HHS ensuring that the companies and nonprofits that operate facilities through government contracts and grants are conducting thorough background checks on potential illegal behavior among their employees who work with young girls and boys?
- How are DHS and HHS ensuring that the specific needs of young girls are being met?
- How many pregnant young women are in ORR's custody? What is ORR doing to ensure they are receiving adequate prenatal and medical care?
- How many young women in ORR's custody have recently given birth? What is ORR doing to ensure they are receiving adequate medical care?
- Please provide more information on the reported practice of forcibly injecting children with powerful psychiatric drugs, including what children are being injected with, the rationale for this practice, the number of children subjected to this.
- What plans does DHS and HHS have to reunify children who have been separated from their parents at the border?

The Administration has claimed that limiting media access to the detention centers is out of privacy protection for the detained children. We recognize the importance of protecting the privacy of these children. However, this crisis has raised great concern among Members of Congress and the American people. We look forward to your timely response to our questions.

Sincerely,



DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress



TERRI SEWELL
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

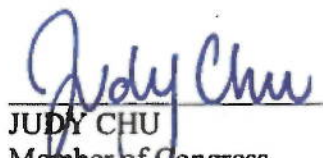

SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress


KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress


YWETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress


SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress


GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

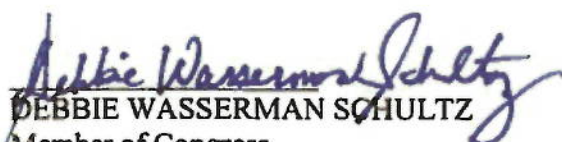

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress

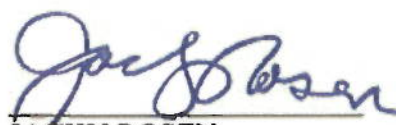

LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress


ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress


JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress


DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress


DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress


JACKY ROSEN
Member of Congress


STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress


COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN RICE
Member of Congress



ALMA ADAMS
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS
Member of Congress


NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress


MARCIA FUDGE
Member of Congress


GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress


SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress


CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress


VAL DEMINGS
Member of Congress


LINDA SANCHEZ
Member of Congress


JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress


CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan

NANETTE BARRAGAN
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro

ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis

SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress

Robin Kelly

ROBIN KELLY
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette

DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress

Karen Bass

KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

DINA TITUS
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty

ELIZABETH ESTY
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velazquez

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree

CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress



NORMA TORRES
Member of Congress



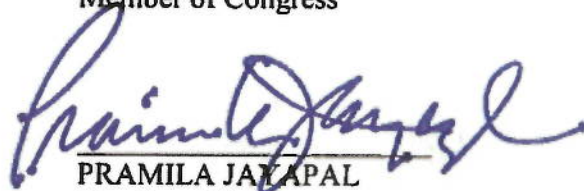
BRENDA LAWRENCE
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress



ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 28, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building
Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
300 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Attorney General Sessions, Secretary Nielsen, and Secretary Azar:

We write to request an explanation of the immediate steps you are taking to comply with the U.S. District Court's preliminary injunction in *Ms. L et al v U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement et al*. In its decision, the court found that the allegations in the lawsuit "sufficiently describe government conduct that arbitrarily tears at the sacred bond between parent and child" and "are sufficient to show the government conduct at issue "shocks the conscience" and violates Plaintiffs' constitutional right to family integrity.¹

Many of the families seeking protection at the U.S. border are fleeing horrific violence and have legitimate requests for asylum—a protection long enshrined in U.S. law. As the court also stated, "we are a country of laws, and of compassion. We have plainly stated our intent to treat refugees with an ordered process, and benevolence, by codifying principles of asylum."²

Separating families as a punishment for seeking a safe future for themselves and their children through lawfully-established channels is abhorrent and can lead to permanent harm to the health and well-being of these children. A 2016 report from a DHS Advisory Committee on Family Residential Centers recognized this, concluding it is never in the best interest of a child to be detained because of immigration status.³

Under the court's injunction, the government has, at most, 30 days to reunite families separated as a result the 'zero tolerance' policy that criminalizes victims of violence, endangers child welfare. Please respond immediately with a description of the processes that will be implemented to comply with the injunction, including specific answers to the following questions:

¹ *Ms. L v. ICE Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Classwide Preliminary Injunction* (June 26, 2018) available at: <https://www.aclu.org/legal-document/ms-l-v-ice-order-granting-plaintiffs-motion-classwide-preliminary-injunction>

² *Ibid.*


³ Report of the DHS Advisor Committee on Family Residential Centers, Dept. of Homeland Security (Sept. 30, 2016) available at: <https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Report/2016/ACFRC-sc-16093.pdf>

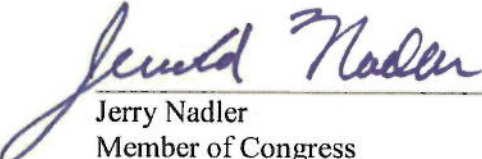
1. Will additional resources or staff be allocated to meet the court order for family reunification? If not, will you be able to comply with the court's order within the prescribed time?
2. Has the government assigned specific units or teams to coordinate the various federal agencies involved in the reunification effort to make sure government complies as soon as possible? If so, please describe.
3. What system is in place to track children in the government's custody?
4. What information is provided to parents to keep them apprised of their children's whereabouts?
5. The ruling stipulates that children under 5 should be reunited with their parents within 14 days. How will the government prioritize reuniting these particularly vulnerable children with their parents?
6. How is the government addressing the needs of preverbal or nonverbal children and how is the government aiding their reunification with parents?
7. As directed by the injunction, is the government giving detained parents the opportunity to speak to their children on the phone within 10 days?

Will all reunited families be kept in family detention until their immigration claims have been resolved? How will this comport with the Flores Agreement?

We thank you for your immediate attention to these questions and look forward to your prompt and detailed response.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



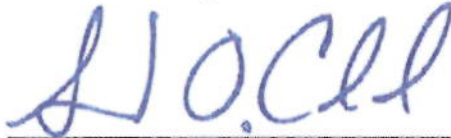
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



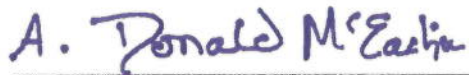
Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



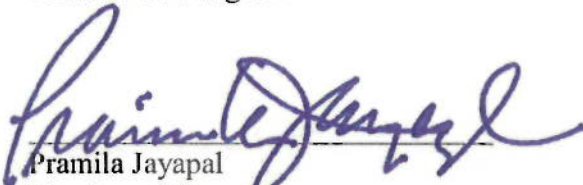
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



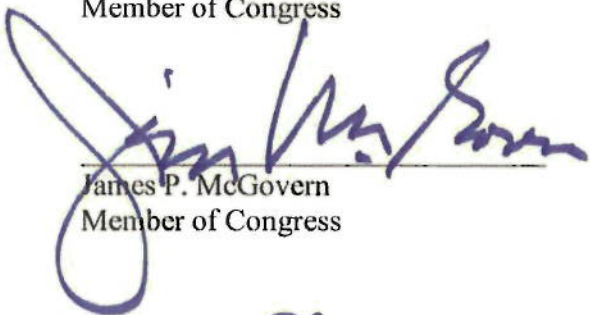
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



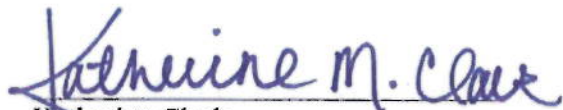
Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



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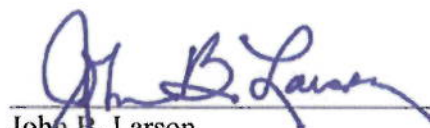
Katherine Clark
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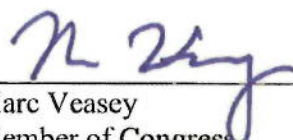
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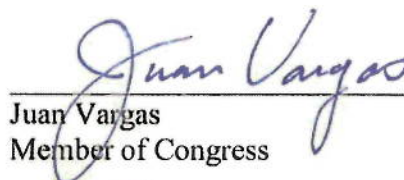
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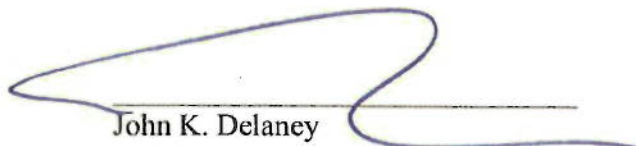
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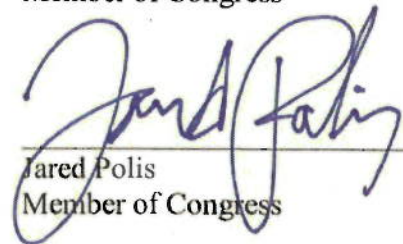
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Norma J. Torres
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Jared Polis
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Beto O'Rourke
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Danny K. Davis
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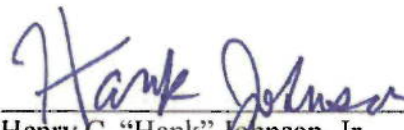
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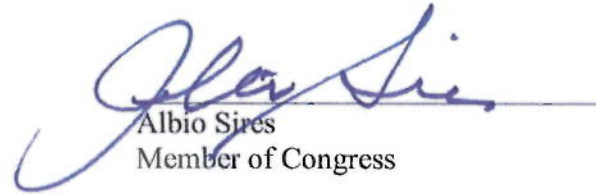


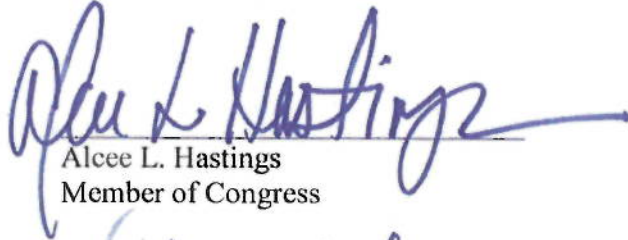
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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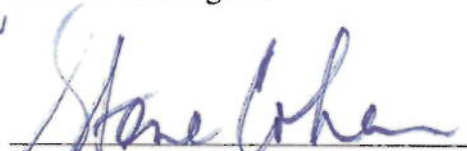

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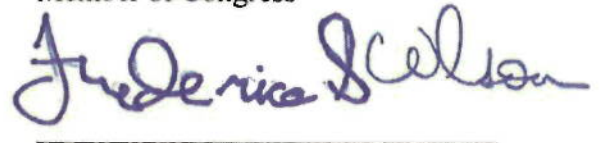

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

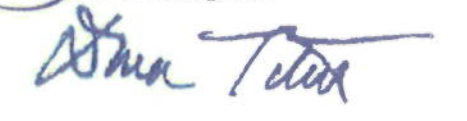

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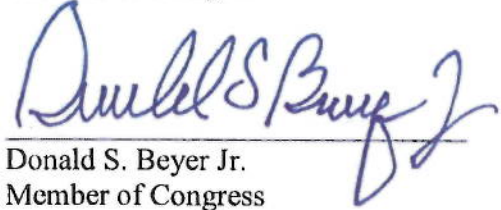
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Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



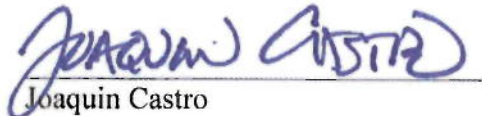
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



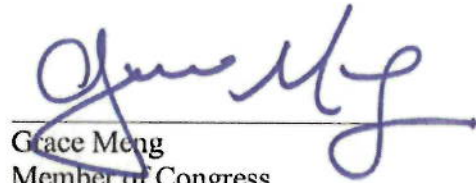
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



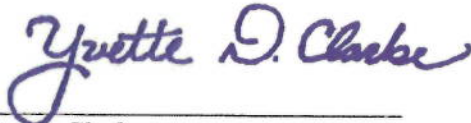
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Yvette D. Clarke
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G. K. Butterfield
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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4329

July 6, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Secretary Azar:

As Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am writing to demand additional information about the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) plan to reunite children in the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) custody who were forcibly separated from their parents by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with their parents.

President Donald Trump's ill-defined and poorly planned policy of "zero tolerance" prosecutions for unauthorized border crossing and family separation has caused a humanitarian catastrophe. The impact of these inhumane policies was made significantly worse by HHS' and DHS' apparent complete disregard for establishing any sort of system for eventually reuniting families.

As you know, on June 26, United States District Court for the Southern District of California granted a preliminary injunction, ordering the federal government to reunite children under the age of 5 with their parents by July 10 and all other children who have been separated from their parents by July 26.

Based on the lack of planning and concern for children's welfare displayed in implementing the family separation policy, I am concerned HHS will be unable to appropriately manage this reunification. Furthermore, I have not received a response to the letter I joined 47 of my colleagues in sending June 28 to you, Attorney General Sessions, and DHS Secretary Nielsen, asking basic questions about your plan to comply with the June 26 injunction. Press reports since that letter compel me to ask additional questions about your family reunification effort.

You have reportedly asked for volunteers to help with the family reunification effort. I am concerned that this may indicate an unacceptably haphazard approach to staffing and organizing the reunification effort. HHS has approximately 80,000 employees and as Secretary you have broad discretion to allocate resources to meet the Department's objectives.

- How many HHS employees are currently involved in the family reunification effort?
- Does HHS require additional resources or authorities to reunite separated families?

- Will HHS meet the timeframes required by the injunction? If not, can you commit to a specific date for completing the reunifications?

You have reportedly called the reunification timeframe called for the injunction “extreme.” That comment shows a startling lack of understanding about the physical, emotional, and psychological harm being separated from a parent can cause a child.

- What steps is HHS taking to address the effects of family separation on children in your custody?
- From a medical perspective, do you agree that reuniting children with their parents is the most effective way of stopping the ongoing harm to children who have been separated?
- Regardless of the injunction, is it HHS’s policy to reunite children with their parents as quickly as possible?

One of the reported challenges you face is identifying which children were removed from their parents by U.S. immigration authorities and those who were separated by other means. Although the injunction may only apply to the former category, the consequences of family separation are just as real for those in the latter category. There are also reported circumstances in which children were separated from adult family members other than their parents.

- Will HHS make an effort to reunite children in its custody with their parents even if the family was not separated by U.S. immigration authorities?
- Will HHS work with DHS to maintain records of family connections among those in their custody even if they do not fall under the scope of the injunction issued by the Southern District of California?

It defies understanding that your Department would participate in separating children from their parents with no plan for ever reunifying them. Even without a plan in place, keeping adequate records could have made the current reunification efforts much simpler and faster. As the children in your care continue to suffer, it is well past time for you to show public accountability for your plan to fix this crisis.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

I write to you today with grave concerns about the health and safety of children in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

ORR is responsible for "the care and safety of children who are apprehended in the United States without a parent or legal guardian available to provide care and custody and without immigration status."¹ As you know, this Committee has investigated issues related to ORR in the past, including as recently as 2016.² Recent testimony suggests that the number of children in ORR custody has surged in recent weeks due to the Administration's newly-implemented "zero tolerance" policy which forcibly separates all minors, including very young children, from their parents and family members.³

I have serious questions about ORR's ability to care for these children. In particular, I am extremely troubled by reports that ORR is considering housing them in "tent cities" at

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Children Entering the United States Unaccompanied: Section 2.7 Recommendations and Decisions on Release* (June 12, 2017) (www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/children-entering-the-united-states-unaccompanied-section-2).

² See Letter from Rep. Fred Upton, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rep. Tim Murphy, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, et al., to Secretary Burwell (Feb. 11, 2016).

³ *Trump's 'Zero Tolerance' At The Border Is Causing Child Shelters To Fill Up Fast*, Washington Post (May 29, 2018).

military bases in Texas.⁴ These children are exceptionally vulnerable, and may suffer irreparable harm, in addition to the trauma they have already suffered, if they are not cared for properly.

Between April and May of this year, the number of children in ORR custody apparently increased from 8,886 to 10,852,⁵ and may now be as high as 11,200.⁶ ORR is required to provide each child in its care with “suitable living accommodations, food, appropriate clothing” and “routine medical and dental care.”⁷ Reports have indicated that HHS shelters are now operating at 95 percent capacity, and it is not clear whether HHS has adequate staff and resources to provide these necessities to all children in its care.⁸

In addition to the broad concerns about caring for any children in ORR’s custody, I am particularly concerned about the welfare of very young children who have been separated from their parents. ORR child shelters have historically been designed to meet the needs of teenagers, who are able to live in dormitory-style settings.⁹ According to reports, however, ORR has recently taken custody of a substantial number of children under the age of 4, including some infants.¹⁰ I am concerned that ORR shelters are unequipped to care for the needs of these very young children, which may place them at serious risk. It is not clear, for example, whether ORR has cribs available in which these children can sleep, or adequate staff to feed and diaper these children.

Moreover, reports have indicated that children of all ages are being held in Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) holding stations for an extended amount of time due to a lack of capacity at ORR shelters.¹¹ These stations are meant to serve as temporary detention centers even when they hold only adults, and not children, and previous assessments have found that “[t]ime in CBP

⁴ *Exclusive: Trump looking to erect tent cities to house unaccompanied children*, McClatchy (June 12, 2018).

⁵ *Trump’s ‘Zero Tolerance’ At U.S.-Mexico Border Is Filling Child Shelters*, Los Angeles Times (May 30, 2018).

⁶ *Hundreds of Migrant Kids Separated From Parents Are Stuck At Border Stations*, NBC News (June 5, 2018).

⁷ Stipulated Settlement Agreement at Exh. 1, *Flores v. Reno*, No. CV 85-4544-RJK(Px) (C.D. Cal. Jan. 17, 1997).

⁸ See note 2.

⁹ *How the Trump Administration Got Comfortable Separating Immigrant Children From Their Parents*, The New Yorker (May 30, 2018); American Civil Liberties Union, *ICE Separates 18-Month-Old From Mother for Months* (www.aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/ice-and-border-patrol-abuses/ice-separates-18-month-old-mother-months).

¹⁰ *Outgoing ICE director says separating parents and children is ‘sad’ but part of the job*, PBS News Hour (May 31, 2018); *Detained immigrant children stay in shelters that are already full and aren’t equipped for babies*, the Independent (June 11, 2018).

¹¹ See note 4.

holding cells was ‘the most difficult and traumatic’ period of detention for ... children apprehended by US immigration authorities.”¹² These stations often lack even basic necessities, such as bedding and separate sleeping rooms for children, but reports suggest that CBP and ORR are keeping children in them for more than 72 hours at a time.¹³ Given that these children have often just been separated from their parents, this practice is extraordinarily alarming.

Finally, ORR is required to hold all children in “the least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child.”¹⁴ In the past, this has meant that ORR held a child only until he or she could be released to the care of a sponsor, typically a parent or other relative.¹⁵ In June 2017, however, ORR instituted a new policy requiring the director of ORR, Scott Lloyd, to personally review and issue a determination on the status of each child who had previously been held in a more secure detention facility.¹⁶ This policy reportedly has led to children being held in detention by ORR for a prolonged length of time, instead of being released to the less restrictive environment offered by sponsors.¹⁷

Congress needs to better understand how ORR is prioritizing the care and well-being of all children in its custody. I therefore request that you provide this Committee with an initial staff briefing no later than June 21, 2018 to explain how your Department is addressing the multitude of custody issues arising from ORR’s involvement in this matter. In addition, I ask that you respond to the following questions by July 5, 2018.

1. Did the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security consult with ORR or perform any analysis of ORR’s ability to absorb additional child migrants prior to implementation of the “zero-tolerance” policy? If so, please provide copies of this analysis.
2. How does ORR track the minors in its care?
 - a. Please identify how many minors currently in ORR custody are under the age of 4, under the age of 12, and under the age of 18. Does ORR segregate minors in its care by age and/or gender? If so, how?
 - b. Please provide the number of beds that ORR maintains for each category of minor, and the number of beds currently available in each category.

¹² *In the Freezer: Abusive Conditions for Women and Children in US Immigration Cells*, Human Rights Watch (Feb. 28, 2018).

¹³ See note 4.

¹⁴ 8 U.S.C. § 1232 (c)(2)(A).

¹⁵ See note 2.

¹⁶ *Hundreds Of Children Detained for Months Due to New Rule Requiring Scott Lloyd’s ‘Personal Approval’ For Release*, Newsweek (May 2, 2018).

¹⁷ *Id.*

- c. Does ORR track the number of minors placed in its custody who were unaccompanied when they crossed the border, and the number who were rendered unaccompanied when they were separated from the family members who accompanied them to the border? If so, please provide the number of children who fall into each category who were placed under ORR custody in April 2018, in May 2018, and in June 2018.
3. Does ORR currently have sufficient supplies and employees or contractors available to care for the physical needs of all very young children in its custody?
 - a. For example, does ORR have adequate cribs in which infants and babies can sleep, or are these babies sleeping in beds designed for older children? How many staff does ORR have available to tend to the need of each infant or baby in its care?
4. How does ORR track children in its care, particularly those who have been released to sponsors, to ensure that children may be reunited with their parents or guardians when those parents or guardians are released from custody?
5. Has ORR delayed accepting children into its custody from CBP for any reason, including the availability of shelter beds or capacity? If so, how many children have been impacted?
6. According to reports, a substantial number of children who were previously held in secure custody have been transferred to regular ORR shelters, but have not been released to sponsors because the current director of ORR, Scott Lloyd, has not personally cleared them for such release.¹⁸
 - a. Please identify the number of children in this category, and explain the process by which Director Lloyd determines whether each child may be released.
 - i. Does Director Lloyd personally meet with each child in this category?
 - ii. How long does it take for the it takes for Director Lloyd to issue a decision on whether the child may or may not be released?
 - iii. Is this decision issued in written form?

¹⁸ *Hundreds Of Children Detained for Months Due to New Rule Requiring Scott Lloyd's 'Personal Approval' For Release*, Newsweek (May 2, 2018).

The Honorable Alex M. Azar

June 14, 2018

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Calce or Jacquelyn Bolen of the Democratic Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member

June 26, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

I write to you today with continuing concern about the well-being of children currently in the custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), especially children who were traumatically separated from their parents under the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy. While President Trump's June 20 Executive Order purportedly ended this policy, I have serious reservations about the ability of ORR and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to reunite children and parents in a timely manner.

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me this past Friday, June 22. Our conversation was informative, and I appreciate your stated commitment to reunifying these families. I also note your statement this morning before the Senate Finance Committee that "[t]here is no reason why any parent would not know where their child is located," and your assertion that you personally can locate "any child" in HHS' care "within seconds" through the ORR database.¹

Nonetheless, I still have many misgivings and questions regarding ORR's process for tracking these children so that they can be reunited with their families. As I shared with you directly, I have personally met with parents who assert that they do not know where their children are. My experience appears consistent with countless press accounts that depict mass confusion across the system HHS and DHS are using to track these children and reunite them with their families.

¹ *Health Secretary: 'No reason' why separated families can't find children*, Politico (June 26, 2018).

This confusion was also evident from a briefing with Democratic Committee staff that took place on June 21. In that briefing, ORR staff were unable to convey that a comprehensive database exists to thoroughly track both separated children and the family members from whom they were separated to ensure eventual reunification. Similarly, ORR staff were unable to fully explain how immigrant parents could locate their children if they wanted to speak to them or even know where they were taken. For example, ORR staff stated that when an immigrant parent did not have their child's Alien Registration Number, or "A-Number," a parent could simply provide the child's birth date or, could simply "describe" that child to ORR staff in situations where a child might be too young to know their birth date. I question whether this process actually works.

The staff briefing also raised concerns that ORR may not have been made aware of the "zero tolerance" policy prior to its implementation. As a result, it appears that ORR was unable to take proactive steps to provide extra services for children traumatically torn away from their families, such as providing pediatric psychologists or trauma specialists, or increasing staff devoted to the care of toddlers and infants.

As you are aware, I sent a letter to you on June 14 asking many questions regarding HHS's role in caring for the children that are in the care of ORR as a result of the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" policy. I also sent a formal request to the U.S. Government Accountability Office to fully audit what systems are in place to help separated children be reunited with their families.

Unfortunately, my conversation with you and the briefing ORR provided to Democratic Committee staff have only raised more questions about the fate of the roughly 2,000 children now in HHS's care. Therefore, I am seeking additional answers to several questions that have arisen following these conversations.

Due to the ongoing confusion regarding this program and given the urgency of the fate of the children and families involved in this system, please provide detailed answers as soon as possible, by not later than July 6, 2018.

1. On June 21, ORR told Committee staff that it had 1,911 minors in its custody who had been forcibly separated from their parents. During a June 25 briefing, the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) stated that there are 2,053 minors in ORR's care under these circumstances. During your testimony today before the Senate Finance Committee, you stated that ORR had 2,047 minors in its care. This appears to show more imprecision and serious confusion regarding ORR's ability to account for all children under its care. Did all family separations stop following the June 20 Executive Order? Is there a master list of all children in ORR's care due to family separations?
2. What exact system does HHS and ORR use to track every single individual child, and does this system identify every child by their name, birth date, parents, and country of origin?

3. How does HHS ensure that identifying information is easily connected to an actual child? For example, do children wear wristbands that can be scanned to connect to their database records? If so, do parents wear matching wristbands that connect to the same database record? If not, why was an appropriate tracking system not put in place prior to the policy being implemented?
4. When HHS does not have information about an individual child's parents or family members, how does HHS work with the DHS and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to get that information?
5. Who is the primary administration official responsible for managing reunification of these families?
6. Does HHS anticipate that there will be instances in which it will be impossible to definitively connect a child with a parent, such as in the case of a pre-verbal child? If so, does HHS intend to conduct genetic testing to reunite families in these instances or take any additional measures to ensure reunification?
7. When a parent is deported without his or her child, how does HHS ensure that family is ultimately reunited?
8. While many children that come into ORR's care have suffered trauma, these new child refugees have suffered the additional severe shock of having been traumatically torn away from their parents. Has ORR taken any steps to offer special care or treatment to these children?
9. Finally, I have serious concerns regarding the assertion you made to me that parents must be in a position to receive their children before ORR can release their children to them and would appreciate additional clarity on that policy. If parents remain in adult Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities throughout the duration of their immigration case, it may be months or even years before these families are reunited. How does HHS or the Administration intend to address these specific situations?

Lastly, during ORR's June 21 briefing with Democratic Committee staff, ORR pledged to provide this Committee with daily updates on the total number of children in ORR's custody and the number of children in ORR's custody due to forcible family separation. This update was to include a breakdown by age which specifically includes the number of children under the age of five, and infants and toddlers under eighteen months. I ask that you direct ORR staff to begin providing these daily updates as soon as possible.

The Honorable Alex M. Azar
June 26, 2018
Page 4

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Calce or Jacquelyn Bolen of the Democratic Committee staff at 202-225-3641.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member