

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MEMORANDUM

July 8, 2019

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Fr: Majority Staff

Re: Hearing on “Kids in Cages: Inhumane Treatment at the Border”

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the health and safety conditions of migrant children and families in federal custody, including those in Department of Homeland Security or Department of Health and Human Services detention facilities.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

The hearing will examine the impact of the Trump Administration’s deterrence policies on the humanitarian crisis at the border, recent reports of dangerous conditions and medical neglect, and the lack of accountability for abuse and misconduct at detention facilities.

II. BACKGROUND

One of the hearing witnesses is Yazmin Juárez, who fled from Guatemala with her 19-month old daughter Mariee to seek asylum in the United States. They were held in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility for nearly three weeks, where the toddler became increasingly ill. Ms. Juárez repeatedly requested medical care, and her daughter was prescribed medication, but her condition did not improve. Mariee was immediately hospitalized after ICE discharged them, but died six weeks later. Ms. Juárez has filed a wrongful death claim against the U.S. government.¹

¹ *Mother Sues US for \$60 Million After Toddler Detained at Immigration Facility Later Died*, CNN (Nov. 28, 2018) (online at www.cnn.com/2018/11/28/health/texas-ice-yazmin-juarez-child-lawsuit/index.html).

III. WITNESSES

Panel 1

Yazmin Juárez
Asylum Seeker

Panel 2

Michael Breen
President and Chief Executive Officer
Human Rights First

Clara Long
Deputy Washington Director
Human Rights Watch

Hope Frye
Executive Director
Project Lifeline

Dr. Carlos A. Gutierrez, M.D. F.A.A.P.
Pediatrics
Private Practice

Ronald D. Vitiello (Minority Witness)
Former Chief, U.S. Border Patrol
Former Acting Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Staff contacts: Valerie Shen and Candyce Phoenix at (202) 225-5051.