

**AMENDMENT**

**OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE OF NEW JERSEY**

Add at the end of title IV the following:

1 **SEC. 403. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FAMILY SEPARATION.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) As a result of the Trump Administration’s  
4 “zero tolerance” policy, children have been forcibly  
5 separated from their parents and other family mem-  
6 bers and guardians.

7 (2) As of June 20, 2018, 2,053 separated mi-  
8 nors were being cared for in facilities funded by the  
9 Department of Health and Human Services.

10 (3) These children are at serious risk of suf-  
11 fering harm and severe trauma. The American Acad-  
12 emy of Pediatrics has stated that this separation  
13 “can cause irreparable harm, disrupting a child’s  
14 brain architecture and affecting his or her short-  
15 and long-term health”.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
17 Congress that—

18 (1) that the Secretary of Health and Human  
19 Services should consult with such public health offi-  
20 cials as may be necessary to determine whether the

1 separation of children from their parent or guardian  
2 as a result of the Trump Administration’s “zero tol-  
3 erance” policy is a public health emergency;

4 (2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of  
5 the House of Representatives should hold at least  
6 one hearing to examine the current status and wel-  
7 fare of those children who have been separated from  
8 their parent or guardian as a result of the Trump  
9 Administration’s “zero tolerance” policy and the  
10 long-term implications of such policy on the health  
11 of such children; and

12 (3) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
13 ices, the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettle-  
14 ment, and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness  
15 and Response should be called as witnesses for such  
16 hearing.

