



**One Hundred Fifteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515**

May 25, 2018

Director Scott Lloyd  
Office of Refugee Resettlement  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Director Lloyd:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the increased separation of families at our southern border following the Trump Administration's implementation of its "zero tolerance" policy. We are deeply troubled by this practice, and we are particularly concerned about the trauma inflicted on infants and children who are forcibly separated from their parents.

According to a report published by the *New York Times*, more than 700 children have been separated from their parents by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) since October 2017, including more than 100 children under the age of four.<sup>1</sup> Many of the children are of an age that they cannot understand where they are going, why they are being separated from their family, or how long they will be placed in government care. Forcibly separating children from their parents is cruel and incompatible with the values we cherish as a country.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has urged this Administration to reject the policy of family separation.<sup>2</sup> The AAP has also highlighted the unique medical, developmental, dietary and physical needs of children, and how those needs are compromised when children are torn away from their families. The question of how these children are cared for is not a trivial one nor should it be treated as one. Moreover, we believe that the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) may not have the long-term resources needed to provide adequate social and health services to children who are separated from their parents.

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<sup>1</sup> Dickerson, Caitlin. "Hundreds of Immigrant Children Have Been Taken from Parents at U.S. Border," *The New York Times*, 23 April 2018. Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/20/us/immigrant-children-separation-ice.html>.

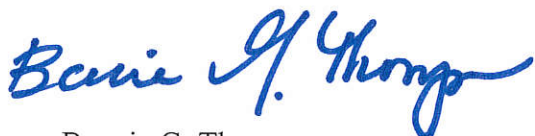
<sup>2</sup> Letter from Colleen A. Kraft, President, American Academy of Pediatrics, to Kristjen M. Nielsen, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security (March 1, 2018). Available at: <https://downloads.aap.org/DOFA/AAP%20Letter%20to%20DHS%20Secretary%2003-01-18.pdf>.

Given these concerns and pursuant to Rule X and Rule XI of the House of Representatives, please respond to the following questions in writing by June 8, 2018:

1. How many unaccompanied children have been referred to ORR by CBP in Fiscal Years (FY) 2017 and 2018, by month?
2. What is the age and gender of children transferred to ORR by CBP in FY 2017 and FY 2018?
3. How many unaccompanied children are currently in ORR custody?
4. What is the average length of time children transferred to ORR by CBP were in your custody in FY 2017 and FY 2018?
5. What mechanisms do ORR and the Department of Homeland Security have in place to allow adult guardians to maintain contact and reunify with children in ORR custody?

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Alison Northrop, Chief Director for Oversight, at (202) 226-2616. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member



Filemon Vela  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security