



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

The Honorable _____

Washington, DC _____

Dear _____:

As your constituent, I am writing you to express my concern with respect to current efforts by the government to dismantle child welfare protections for migrant children at our border. Coupled with recent cases of indefinite family detention and separation among migrants, this pattern of humanitarian abuses has compelled me to speak out. I urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress to preserve the Flores Settlement Agreement that has for over twenty years provided vulnerable children protection while in the care and custody of the government.

Detaining children is never in the interest of child welfare; and family detention is no exception. Detention traumatizes youth, undermines the basic family structure, and has a devastating psycho-social impact on children. These damaging outcomes are amplified by the growing use of military bases and tent cities as detention facilities – settings that are inherently unequipped to meet the needs of vulnerable youth.

The United States is a world leader – looked up to by many – because of our robust legal system and historically compassionate approach toward refugees and asylum seekers. Imprisoning migrant children, rescinding their legal protections, and treating vulnerable youth as criminals...these actions undermine our moral leadership and violate this country's commitment to humanitarian principles.

I urge you to be a champion for child welfare and the preservation of human dignity at our border. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your public service.

Sincerely,

Name (print)

Address

Phone Number (optional)