



Date

The Honorable Ken Paxton  
Attorney General of Texas

RE: Attorney General Investigation Request into Alleged Child Trafficking of Unaccompanied Minors

Dear Attorney General Ken Paxton,

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), from October 2020 – August 2022, Texas has received over 33,000 unaccompanied minors released to sponsors<sup>1</sup>. In September 2021, Axios disclosed information obtained by a FOIA request.<sup>2</sup> The report uncovered that the U.S. Government lost track of nearly 40% of unaccompanied minors released to sponsors.

In September 2022, alarms were raised when Reuters reported that dozens of unaccompanied minors in Houston were listed as missing.<sup>3</sup> In the past several years, the number of non-governmental organization (NGO) run facilities created to house these children across the state has expanded. Suspicions and concerns expressed about the welfare and fate of the thousands of unaccompanied children released by these facilities have seemingly been confirmed with the recently released potential evidence presented by investigative journalist by Project Veritas.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Administration for Children and Families (ACF). “Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by State - August 2022.” HHS.gov, 21 Oct. 2022, <https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state-august-2022.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Kight, Stef W. “Government Can't Reach 1 in 3 Released Migrant Kids.” Axios, 1 Sept. 2021, <https://www.axios.com/2021/09/01/migrant-children-biden-administration>.

<sup>3</sup> Person, and Mica Rosenberg Kristina Cooke. “Exclusive Dozens of Migrant Children Reported Missing in Houston, Raising Alarms.” Reuters, Thomson Reuters, 2 Sept. 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/exclusive-dozens-migrant-children-reported-missing-houston-raising-alarms-2022-09-02/>.

<sup>4</sup> Veritas, Project. “U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Whistleblower Reveals 'Tax Dollars' Spent to 'Put Children in the Hands of Criminals'; Says Gov't Complicit Because 'We Don't Get Sued by Traffickers' ... Migrant Child: My Female Sponsor 'Would Pimp Me to Men'.” Project Veritas, <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/u-s-department-of-health-and-human-services-whistleblower-reveals-tax/>.



On November 29th, 2022, the first of these investigations included an HHS whistleblower claiming to have evidence of multiple children being released using taxpayer dollars into the hands of traffickers throughout the state of Texas. Video footage included interviews with children describing being held captive in forced labor and sex trafficking rings at the hands of adults they claim are not their relatives. A second part of the ongoing investigation by Project Veritas was released on November 30th with suggestions of further evidence to be released in the future.<sup>5</sup> Children in these videos specifically mention being released by NGO ran facilities that are operating in Texas using taxpayer dollars.

The dangerous and neglectful failures of the HHS vetting process has been long documented, as divulged in a 2016 senate subcommittee investigation report.<sup>6</sup> Federal agencies proceed to increasingly incentivize the exploitation of children throughout Texas.

While Texas alone cannot stop this unprecedented and unconstitutional collapse of the United States' sovereign southern border, Texas must do all it can to end the exploitation of children occurring in Texas as a direct result of the failing border policies being advanced by the federal government. We are asking your office to launch an investigation into the alleged child trafficking of unaccompanied minors through taxpayer funded NGOs operating in Texas.

Sincerely,

---

<sup>1</sup> Veritas, Project. "Traffickers Exploiting Illegal Child Labor with Social Security Fraud; Underage Migrant: 'I Started Working' to Pay Cartel Debt ... 'I Cannot Work Legally Here'." Project Veritas, <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/traffickers-exploiting-illegal-child-labor-with-social-security-fraud/>.

<sup>2</sup> "Majority and Minority Staff Report - Protecting Unaccompanied Alien Children from Trafficking and Other Abuses: The Role of the Office of Refugee Resettlement." Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, 17 Jan. 2023, [https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/library/files/majority-and-minority-staff-report\\_-protecting-unaccompanied-alien-children-from-trafficking-and-other-abuses-the-role-of-the-office-of-refugee-resettlement/](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/subcommittees/investigations/library/files/majority-and-minority-staff-report_-protecting-unaccompanied-alien-children-from-trafficking-and-other-abuses-the-role-of-the-office-of-refugee-resettlement/).