

Resolution Supporting the Call for a State Level Investigation into Alleged Trafficking of Unaccompanied Alien Children

Whereas, since Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, an unprecedented number of over 380,000 unaccompanied alien children (UAC) were released to sponsors across the United States¹;

Whereas, since FY 2021, more than 55,000 UACs have been released to sponsors residing across Texas, more than any other state²;

Whereas, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has released numerous evaluations detailing alarming ongoing deficiencies of U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS)' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) oversight of UAC care, including failing to properly vet sponsors prior to releasing UACs to them³;

Whereas, the findings of a Florida Grand Jury⁴ and The New York Times⁵ investigations have documented how some UACs released to sponsors resulted in their alleged exploitative trafficking⁶;

Whereas, HHS, ORR and contracted non-governmental organizations (NGOs), continue to fail to adequately oversee sponsorship of UACs, including follow up after their release, resulting in the unknown whereabouts and safety of over 85,000 minors⁷;

Whereas, HHS/ORR continue to fail to adequately respond to allegations of UACs being released to known sex offenders and violent transnational criminal gang members funded by American taxpayers⁸;

Whereas, HHS/ORR continue to inadequately respond to pertinent congressional requests of case files on the number of UACs released into the United States with known gang affiliations, or who have committed violent crimes after being released into the country endangering our communities and the lives of innocent Americans⁹;

¹ "Unaccompanied Minors Released to Sponsors by State," Office of Refugee Resettlement, Office of the Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Feb. 8, 2025. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/grant-funding/unaccompanied-children-released-sponsors-state>.

² Ibid.

³ "Gaps in Sponsor Screening and Followup Raise Safety Concerns for Unaccompanied Children," Office of the Inspector General, Feb. 15, 2024. <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-07-21-00250.asp>.

⁴ "21st Grand Jury Releases Shocking Report," Office of the Florida Attorney General, Mar. 30, 2023. <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/newsrelease/21st-sw-grand-jury-releases-shocking-report>.

⁵ Dreier, Hannah, "U.S. Failed to Safeguard Many Migrant Children, Review Finds," The New York Times, Feb. 15, 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/15/us/migrant-child-labor-review.html>.

⁶ Dreier, "As Migrant Children Were Put to Work, U.S. Ignored Warning, The New York Times, Apr. 17, 2023. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/17/us/politics/migrant-child-labor-biden.html>.

⁷ "Hearing Wrap Up: ORR Director Fails to Answer Questions About 85,000 Lost Unaccompanied Alien Children, Flawed Vetting of Sponsors," U.S. Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Apr. 18, 2023. <https://oversight.house.gov/release/hearing-wrap-up-orr-director-fails-to-answer-questions-about-85000-lost-unaccompanied-alien-children-flawed-vetting-of-sponsors-and-more%E2%80%9C>.

⁸ "Chairman Jordan Subpoenas HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra for Criminal Unaccompanied Alien Children Case Files," U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Feb. 20, 2024. <https://judiciary.house.gov/media/press-releases/chairman-jordan-subpoenas-hhs-secretary-xavier-becerra-criminal-unaccompanied>.

⁹ Ibid.

Whereas, during the 88th Texas legislative session, a bi-partisan supported letter was sent to the Texas Attorney General requesting a state level investigation into the alleged trafficking of UACs occurring across the state¹⁰;

Whereas, the ongoing deficiencies and needs of the Texas Foster Care system to care for American children continue to operate under tremendous strain, finite resources and funding are diverted to assist with the care of unaccompanied minors¹¹;

Be it Resolved, the Texas Republican Party supports the legislative call for a state level investigation into the alleged trafficking of UACs and failures by HHS, ORR, and contracted NGOs responsible for the care and safety of the vulnerable UAC population and for the state state-level investigation to include any potential impacts on Texas taxpayers and risks to Texas communities.

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¹⁰ “Letter by Texas State Representative Stan Kitzman,” Alliance for a Safe Texas, Sept. 15, 2023.

<https://securetheborder.us/take-action>.

¹¹ Blankley, Bethany, “45 Republicans vote against Defunding ORR Head Salary over Missing Children, abuse Allegations,” The Center Square, Nov. 16, 2023. https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_77afeda8-84cd-11ee-9b3b-cfbfe9db98ec.html.