

FaithWorks Delivers Letter to the Texas Governor and Attorney General in Support of Unaccompanied Children

Texas Should Not Participate in a Plan that Puts Children at Risk of Trafficking

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We have sent a letter to the offices of Governor Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton voicing our deep concern over the reported plan to transfer unaccompanied immigrant children to Texas.

FaithWorks, along with Texas state faith leaders and child welfare organizations, warns that such a move would heighten the risks of child trafficking, exploitation, and abuse by cutting children off from qualified legal counsel, disrupting their pending protection applications, and placing them in facilities lacking independent oversight.

We are also concerned about other federal actions—such as withholding payments from legal service providers and attempting to shift legal representation to unsuitable agencies—as steps that undermine the legal protections and safety of these vulnerable children.

We urge Texas leaders to reject participation in the federal plan, restore state oversight of facilities housing immigrant children, and ensure continued access to specialized, independent legal counsel.

We believe safeguarding children from trafficking and exploitation must take precedence over political or policy differences and call on the state to uphold its longstanding commitment to child welfare by maintaining the critical protections currently in place for unaccompanied minors.

Collaborating with FaithWorks to lead the justice efforts on behalf of our children is Texas Impact, Children's Defense Fund of Texas, and Texas Immigration Law Council. The letters to the governor and attorney general are signed by dozens of diverse organizational and individual signatories.

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Children's Defense Fund - Texas
FaithWorks
Texas Immigration Law Council
Texas Impact