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June 28, 2018

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
 Chairwoman
 Committee on Education and the Workforce
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx,

We write to request an oversight hearing before the House Education and the Workforce Committee on the regarding the role and responsibilities of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement with regard to the custody of the thousands of unaccompanied minors. As you know, per House Rule X, Clause 1, our Committee has jurisdiction over "education ... generally." Additionally, Rule X, makes clear that the Committee "shares with the Committee on the Judiciary jurisdiction over a bill comprehensively amending the Immigration and Nationality Act" which includes the Office of Refugee Resettlement within the Department of Health and Human Services.¹

In April, the Trump Administration established a "zero tolerance" immigration policy that separated children from their parents upon entry to the United States, including those seeking asylum. This has resulted in thousands of children who are now "unaccompanied" by virtue of forced separation. Among these minors are infants and toddlers. After widespread condemnation, the President Trump issued Executive Order 13841 purportedly to halt these practices on June 20th. Only two days ago, a federal judge in California issued a preliminary injunction requiring that nearly all children under five be returned to their parents within 14 days and that older children be returned within 30 days.

Despite these actions, the Administration's plans, policies, and procedures regarding ORR's responsibility for the health and welfare of the affected children remain unclear. The Committee's oversight plan, adopted on January 24, 2017, notes that "Congressional oversight of federal programs and activities is a critical part" of this branch's "constitutional authority."² To that end, we respectfully reiterate the request for a hearing that examines the Administration's capacity and willingness to ensure compliance with all applicable requirements regarding the

¹ 8 U.S. Code § 1521

² https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/115th_ew_oversight_plan.pdf

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rights, remedies, and services for the unaccompanied minors under the custody of the federal government.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



ROBERT. C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Ranking Member



SUZANNE BONAMICI
Vice Ranking Member