

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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June 22, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Nielsen, Secretary Azar, and Attorney General Sessions:

The Trump Administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the border has been a travesty at all levels. Although President Trump now claims to have reversed this inhumane policy, he has not explained how thousands of children will be reunited with their families. You have a moral responsibility to remedy these grave mistakes and reunite these children with their parents immediately.

We are writing to demand an accounting of every baby, infant, toddler, and child that you stripped from his or her parents. We also insist that you immediately provide Congress with a coordinated, interagency plan to ensure that every child is returned to his or her parents and that no parents are deported while their children remain in custody in the United States.

The Trump Administration reportedly separated 2,342 children from 2,206 parents between May 5 and June 9 of 2018—a rate of 65 children a day.<sup>1</sup>

Multiple reports indicate that, before implementing this new policy, your agencies failed to put in place adequate protocols to reunite children and their parents at the resolution of these proceedings:

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<sup>1</sup> *New Statistics: The Government is Separating 65 Children a Day from Parents at the Border*, Vox (June 19, 2018) (online at [www.vox.com/2018/6/19/17479138/how-many-families-separated-border-immigration](http://www.vox.com/2018/6/19/17479138/how-many-families-separated-border-immigration)).

No protocols have been put in place for keeping track of parents and children concurrently, for keeping parents and children in contact with each other while they are separated, or for eventually reuniting them.<sup>2</sup>

Multiple reports also indicate that your agencies have been deporting parents without their children:

On Wednesday, the President signed an executive order that he claimed would halt the separations, but it made no mention of the families who had already been split up. They have been left in limbo. Some parents have already been deported, while their children remain in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>

Former Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director John Sandweg recently warned that because of your failures, “there is a very high risk” that some of these children could be separated “permanently” if their parents are deported without them.<sup>4</sup>

Intentionally and permanently separating children from their families is simply not an outcome we can accept as Americans.

For these reasons, we request that you produce, by June 28, 2018, the following information for each child separated from his or her parents pursuant to the Trump Administration’s “zero tolerance” policy:

- (1) the name, age, gender, country of origin, and alien identification number, if any, of the separated child;
- (2) all locations and facilities in which the separated child has been, and is currently being, detained, and the dates on which the child was in each facility;
- (3) if the separated child is awaiting transfer to a different facility, the name and location of the facility and the date of the planned transfer;
- (4) the name, age, gender, and country of origin, and alien identification number, if any, of the parent or parents of the separated child;

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<sup>2</sup> *The Government Has no Plan for Reuniting the Immigrant Families It is Tearing Apart*, New Yorker (June 18, 2018) (online at [www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-government-has-no-plan-for-reuniting-the-immigrant-families-it-is-tearing-apart](http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-government-has-no-plan-for-reuniting-the-immigrant-families-it-is-tearing-apart)).

<sup>3</sup> *Mothers in a New Mexico Prison Do Not Know How to Find Their Children*, New Yorker (June 21, 2018) (online at [www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/mothers-in-a-new-mexico-prison-do-not-know-how-to-find-their-children](http://www.newyorker.com/news/dispatch/mothers-in-a-new-mexico-prison-do-not-know-how-to-find-their-children)).

<sup>4</sup> *‘I Can’t Go Without My Son,’ a Mother Pleaded as She Was Deported to Guatemala*, New York Times (June 17, 2018) (online [www.nytimes.com/2018/06/17/us/immigration-deported-parents.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/17/us/immigration-deported-parents.html)).

- (5) the date and location of the detainment and arrest of the parent or parents of the separated child;
- (6) all locations and facilities in which the parent or parents of the separated child have been, and are currently being, detained, and the dates on which the parent or parents were in each facility;
- (7) the date and location of the separation of the child from his or her parents;
- (8) the date and location of family reunification, if it has occurred;
- (9) whether the parent or parents of the separated child presented themselves to U.S. officials for asylum, and if so, the status of the asylum case;
- (10) if the parent or parents of the separated child were deported, the date, location, and destination of the deportation; and
- (11) if the separated child has a sibling in the United States, the detention facility, shelter, foster home, or other facility in which the sibling has been, or is currently being, detained.

In addition to producing this information, we request that you provide a briefing by June 28, 2018, detailing the specific processes you will utilize to reunite each and every one of these separated children with his or her parents, as well as the manner in which you will ensure that parents are not deported without their children.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Elis E. Cummings

Peter W. Rose

Carolyn B. Maloney

John R. ...

John ...

John P. ...

Wm. Lang Clay

Raja Krishnamoorti

Jamie Raski

Stacy E. Platt

Mark T. ...

Brian W. ...

Thom ...

R. ...

Jimmy ...

Brenda ...

Matthew A. ...

G. H. ...