

State of Kansas
Senate

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Richard Hilderbrand
Senator, 13th District
Senate Majority Whip

June 3, 2021

The Honorable Laura Kelly
Governor of the State of Kansas
Capitol Building, Room 241 South
Topeka Ks, 66612

Re: Kansas' Response to President Biden's Humanitarian Crisis at the United States of America's Southern Border

It has been recently brought to my attention that the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is offering grant dollars through the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Division of Unaccompanied Children (ORR/DUC) to shelter unaccompanied minors who have experienced the trauma of being separated from their parent.

While I understand that this is a federal grant funded through the Biden Administration, once a child has been placed in the State of Kansas, state child welfare laws apply. I am requesting the following information from your Administration:

- If the Kelly Administration is currently participating in the ACF grant for [Residential \(Shelter and/or Transitional Foster Care\) Services for Unaccompanied Children-LICENSED ONLY](#) or intending to do so;
- The current number of unaccompanied minors in state licensed facilities or placements;
- The number of unaccompanied minors in state licensed facilities or placements on January 20, 2021;
- The current number of unaccompanied minors in state licensed placements under the age of 12;
- The number of unaccompanied minors residing in Kansas that have been reunified with their parents since January 20, 2021;
- List of licensed facilities in the State of Kansas currently placing unaccompanied minors in Kansas and;
- The last date the Kelly Administration inspected and/or surveyed any licensed residential facility or group home housing unaccompanied minors - if applicable.

On June 26, 2018 the Editorial Board for the Kansas City Star published an op-ed titled "[Will Gov. Colyer and Kansas officials stand up for the migrant children in Topeka?](#)", in which it rebuffed the former Administration for its perceived lack of transparency regarding the care of

unaccompanied minors and the duty Kansas has in taking care of vulnerable children within its borders.

While I agree Kansans must take care of vulnerable children in Kansas, the Kelly Administration should not enable President Biden's reckless immigration policy that allows violent cartels to exploit naïve states at the expense of vulnerable and innocent children. I look forward to your response and working with the Administration to ensure the safety, health, and best interests of Kansans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Hilderbrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R".

Senator Richard Hilderbrand, District 13

Chairman, Senate Public Health and Welfare

Cc: Laura Howard, Secretary, Kansas Department for Children and Families