

To the Louisiana Congressional Delegation:

As a person of faith, fellow Louisianan, and your constituent, I write to urge you to focus on fair and humane remedies to the current border crisis that uphold our nation’s principles and values as a beacon of hope for those fleeing persecution, a protector of due process rights, and above all maintains our tradition of compassionate treatment to vulnerable people.

Specifically I ask that you take the following steps:

**Oppose changes to the current law that would undermine due process protections for unaccompanied children** arriving from non-contiguous countries. Please reject any proposal that would roll back protections afforded to vulnerable children through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2008.

**Oppose the placement of families into detention facilities and provide increased funding for community-based alternatives to detention (ATDs).** From 1998 to 2003 Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans operated an ATD program that had a 98% appearance rate and saved the government tens of thousands of dollars.

**Increase funding for legal representation for children** and for immigration court teams. New Orleans area immigration attorneys are training other attorneys through the P, B, &J initiative, but the need is so great. A “surge” of immigration judges to the border to adjudicate the claims of children requires significantly more funding than the Administration has requested.

**Support and increase funding to address the root causes of flight, including investments in at-risk youth.** The United States needs to make a long-lasting commitment to the region in order to make it safe for children and families to flourish.

**Provide funding to operate and Orderly Departure Program** in the region for young persons and children in need of refugee protection. This would spare children the dangers of a migration journey.

**Finally, support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that would fix our broken immigration system, allow families to stay together and businesses to flourish, and would allow children to reunite with parents in the U.S. in an orderly and safe manner.**

Sincerely,

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SIGNATURE

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