

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Administration of Criminal Justice
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VALARIE HODGES State Representative ~ District 64

July 30, 2014

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
State Of Louisiana
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Governor Jindal,

We are calling on you for immediate action. We believe in the Rule of Law and the Law Giver. We are a nation of laws; a lawful society simply does not rise from lawlessness. We question the legality of the President's plan to set up offices within Honduras to "screen" youths and children for the purpose of easy, direct admittance into the United States; an unprecedented action that circumvents all existing immigration laws and procedures.

Specifically, we are urging you to **call on the President and all federal agencies to insist on full prior notice of transportation and detention of illegal aliens to our state, such notice to include time, manner and place of transportation and detention as well as complete health status of all illegals.**

Simultaneously, **call on the President to put in place a plan to separate criminals from innocents and to pressure the home countries to take responsibility for their children.**

But these are only two steps you should take immediately, others are below.

The problem

Current estimates are that thousands of illegal aliens – the majority are male teenagers or adults – are crossing the border into Texas, overwhelming our border agents and our ability to manage them.

These aliens have no documents to show their health status, and many have already been determined to be carrying dangerous and contagious diseases.

Our federal agents and federal policy seem to be more focused on providing housing and long-term care than turning illegals back to their own countries. This is simply not acceptable.

What's more, our federal agencies are acting in secret, transporting detainees into neighboring states, possibly Louisiana, with no notice, but with plans to house them indefinitely. See attached letter from Governor Nathan Deal of Georgia on July 24, 2014 detailing their dilemma with unaccompanied alien children.

The so called "children coming across the border" are actually a mix of innocents and extremely dangerous individuals, who are using this opportunity to enter our country. These are not refugees.

Border agents have already identified members of dangerous gangs; have seen evidence of gang recruitment among the detainees, drug smuggling, crime and a possible murder. Marine Corps General John Kelly testified before congress this year and called the issue at the border, *“an existential threat to the United States security due to the criminal networks and terrorists organizations penetrating our southern border.”*

The consequences of inaction

It is clear that neither the president nor any federal agency has a policy to engage, notify or involve states. This policy ignores the concerns expressed by the citizens of affected states, causing confusion and in some cases very public anger and near panic. Now the President has gone a step further with his recent program to setup screenings in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Louisiana may face the reality of illegals – with criminal pasts and questionable health – being released into our state with no support of any kind.

Louisiana taxpayers simply do NOT have the money to pay for these illegal aliens, many of whom are tattooed teenage gang members willingly entering detention facilities to recruit more gang members within the borders of the United States.

Detainees are being diagnosed with pneumonia, meningitis and scabies and subsequently hospitalized. Other diseases are likely.

The policy to transport and house across multiple states will spread disease, crime and personal injury at the worst and at best create a huge demand for public services from housing shelters, food banks, public health services, and perhaps public education services. The cost of some of these services may be borne by Louisiana taxpayers.

Solutions

Governor Jindal, we urge you to use all constitutional powers granted to you to serve and protect the citizens of Louisiana concerning this manner. We call on you to:

- 1. Mobilize and deploy some of the Louisiana National Guard to help Texas secure its borders against further violations.**
- 2. Insist that the President and federal agencies immediately create a plan to separate the innocent and harmless from the guilty and the harmful.**
- 3. Insist that the President pressure the leadership of the home nations to safely and humanely retrieve their citizens and to take into custody the known criminals.**
- 4. Discourage the President’s plan to screen more youth and children in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala which will result in luring more of these citizens to come into the United States illegally.**

5. **Insist that all agencies of the federal government notify us of pending transportation and housing of detainees into our state, including projected arrival dates and time, numbers of detainees, complete health status, and proof of an acceptable plan for short-term housing, quarantine and humane quick return to their home countries, all expenses to be borne by the countries of responsibility.**
6. **Explore either an executive order or proposed legislation to forbid illegals from being released from any federal facility into the state of Louisiana.**

Closing

While we are sympathetic to the needs of children, we must be wise. *"The government must follow its own laws fairly and impartially or else it will encourage lawlessness,"* said Congressman Louie Gohmert, Vice Chair of Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

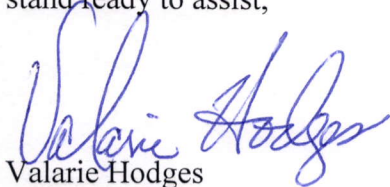
As a Christian nation, we understand our role as adults in protecting innocent children. It is not humane to ship children off to unknown federal prisons and detention centers with no plan and no communication with affected states.

However, the United States and Louisiana have a moral responsibility to ensure that our Louisiana children are educated and cared for before spending scarce resources to permanently house homeless minors and criminals from other countries that should accept that responsibility.

It is also unwise to close our eyes to the opportunity this crisis has created for the drug cartels, gangs and human traffickers to infiltrate, grow and profit right under our noses.

Please take immediate action on these items, and kindly inform us of those efforts. Thank you in advance of your immediate attention and action.

On behalf of the Members of the House listed below, who join me in this sentiment, we urge quick action and stand ready to assist,



Valarie Hodges
District 64
Denham Springs, LA

Enclosed: Letter to President from Georgia Governor

Representative Rogers Pope
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Henry Burns
Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr.
Representative Clay Schexnayder
Representative Kirk Talbot
Representative Gregory Miller

Representative Lance Harris
Representative Richard Burford
Representative Tim Burns
Representative Thomas Carmody
Representative Steve Carter
Representative Jay Morris
Representative Steven Pylant