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**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

December 5, 2022

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Peters:

We write in response to recently reported claims by federal employee whistleblower that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is knowingly transferring unaccompanied migrant children in the custody of criminals, including sex traffickers. This cannot be swept under the rug. Congress must immediately take action to stop the atrocities this whistleblower claims are being committed by the federal government itself. The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs must call a hearing to further investigate these whistleblower claims.

On November 29, 2022, Project Veritas released a video of its interview with Tara Lee Rodas, an employee at the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) who was formerly detailed with HHS at the Emergency Intake Site in Pomona, California.<sup>1</sup> In just a 12-minute video, Ms. Rodas asserted several disturbing claims regarding the Unaccompanied Children Program and HHS's failure to ensure children in the program are transported to safe, non-criminal sponsors, including:

- "It's just strange that HHS knows there's a lot of children going to one area, and yet they're not doing anything to say 'there's going to be a mandatory home study before we send one more child here.'"
- "[The Biden Administration] relaxed a lot of the stringent vetting by creating these additional field guidances, and there's a focus on 'move the children' as opposed to 'place children in safe homes.' Right now, it is speed over safety."
- "HHS does not want federal law enforcement going after their sponsors in any way."
- "Our sponsors typically are not citizens; they are not permanent residents. They don't have legal presence."

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<sup>1</sup> Project Veritas, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Whistleblower Reveals "Tax Dollars" Spent to "Put Children in the Hands of Criminals"; Says Gov't Complicit Because "We Don't Get Sued by Traffickers"...Migrant Child: My Female Sponsor "Would Pimp Me to Men," Nov. 29, 2022, *available at* <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/u-s-department-of-health-and-human-services-whistleblower-reveals-tax/>.

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- “[Most people] have no idea that children are going to unrelated people. That children are definitely—we have proof, evidence—that they are being recruited and transported. They are then in debt bondage.”
- “We know that children have been trafficked through the [Unaccompanied Children] program.”
- “Once the children are gone to the sponsor, there’s nothing we can do about it. There’s nothing that HHS can do.”
- “We are paying to put children in the hands of criminals.”

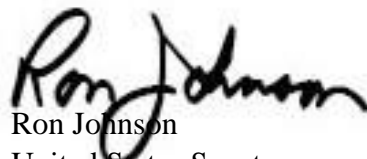
The most reprehensible claim by Ms. Rodas occurred when she raised concerns to command center executives about placing another unaccompanied child in a questionable home. According to Ms. Rodas, someone told her, “I think you need to understand we only get sued if we keep kids in care too long. We don’t get sued by traffickers. Are you clear? We don’t get sued by traffickers.”

It angers us that this Administration is more concerned about lawsuits than about protecting a child from sex slavery. We have long known that the Biden Administration’s open border policies are fueling human trafficking and child sex trafficking, as migrants repay debts to the cartels who transport them to illegally cross the border. In committee hearings and briefings, we have repeatedly pressed HHS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for information about human trafficking across our border and continuing into our communities. However, this Administration is either unable or unwilling to answer our questions.

With Ms. Rodas’s courageous whistleblowing, the committee can no longer continue to allow this Administration to dodge scrutiny over its inhumane border crisis. Therefore, we demand that you to hold a hearing to investigate Ms. Rodas’s claims, calling as witnesses HHS Secretary Becerra, DHS Secretary Mayorkas, and CIGIE Chair Allison Lerner.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
United States Senator



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator