



League of United Latin American Citizens

July 31, 2014

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U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization in the country, I write regarding the Senate's ongoing work on the border supplemental appropriation bill, introduced by Chairwoman Mikulski, that seeks to provide funding to help address the humanitarian crisis on the border. As you move forward with considering this legislation, our organization would like to highlight those aspects of the bill that are promising to us and also note general issues of concern that may arise that could make this bill impassable in our eyes.

In particular, our organization fully supports the \$1.2 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the \$300 million for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The funds for HHS would help support the unaccompanied children program, allowing them to continue to provide emergency shelter, and other services for the innocent, Latino refugee children. The funds for USAID are also critical in that they would help strengthen the agency's ability to enhance social services and child welfare services, establish emergency shelters, and address other issues of concern through its various programs in countries currently sending migrant children.

Perhaps most important to our organization is to ensure that this legislation remain a clean funding bill – without language that would alter the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 or include any language that would have the effect of enabling the deportation of the innocent, migrant children currently incarcerated at detention centers across the country. Additionally, any attempts to zero-out funding, or prohibit funds from being used to administer the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, are also unacceptable. Attempts to include that would rescind President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program or prevent the President from modifying or expanding the program, should also be rejected. Finally, LULAC also opposes any attempts to provide agencies with discretionary authority to shift funds slated for humanitarian purposes to enforcement actions. These items are of great concern and we urge you to reject any attempts to dilute or weaken this bill with any of these poison pills as the Senate moves forward with this legislation.

On behalf of the over 135,000 members of the League of United Latin American Citizens, I thank you for your work and your leadership on this humanitarian issue. Please feel free to have your staff reach out to Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy, at latorres@lulac.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President