



League of United Latin American Citizens

June 13, 2014

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The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol – H-305
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol – H-305
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, I urge you to support President Obama's request for \$2 billion in emergency funds for the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Unaccompanied Alien Children (AUC) program as you move forward with the LHHS-FY 2015 Appropriations Bill.

On June 10, the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies approved \$1,940,000,000 for HHS' UAC program. Our organization urges the House Appropriations Committee to do the same.

For decades we have known about the dangerous conditions and life threatening situations migrants are exposed to as they try to reach our country, fleeing poverty, wars, and political instability abroad. Today, there is a renewed sense of urgency to take action to address the immigration situation as countless of young and innocent children are becoming the new wave of migrants being detained at the border. As news outlets are reporting, there is a humanitarian crisis at the border: over 90,000 unaccompanied minors are expected to cross the U.S.-Mexico border this year alone. These children, are desperately fleeing parts of Latin America, including areas beyond Mexico, such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, and are found locked up in detention centers.

The Department of Health and Human Services' Unaccompanied Alien Children program is critical in ensuring the safety and well-being of these children that have gone through horrid ordeals to arrive to our care. It is our moral responsibility and in the best interest of your constituents to act to address this humanitarian crisis. The HHS' UAC program provides counseling, education, healthcare, and family reunification services.

In the short term the appropriation of \$2 billion for the HHS' UAC program will help address this humanitarian crisis by providing the funds necessary to supply the resources needed to meet the higher demands on the already stressed programs and officials on the ground. In the long-term, our organization continues to express its strong support for the passage of comprehensive immigration reform.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moran
LULAC National President