



League of United Latin American Citizens

August 22, 2014

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United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

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 to express our organization's deep concern with news reports indicating that several refugee migrant children have been killed in their home countries following their deportation from the United States.

Prior to the August recess, LULAC expressed strong opposition to H.R. 5230, border funding legislation that aimed to rewrite the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, that would have, in our eyes, made it easier and speedier to enable the mass deportation of the innocent, migrant children currently incarcerated at detention centers across the country. While the details remain unclear, the Los Angeles Times reports that between 5 and 10 children in Honduras have been killed following their recent deportation from the United States. One particular teenager, was shot dead just hours after being deported according to his family. In addition, according to the morgue director interviewed by the Los Angeles Times in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 42 dead children have arrived at the morgue in the last several months. San Pedro Sula is arguably the most violent city in the world with 169 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. In fact, the State Department's current travel alerts for Honduras warn U.S. travelers about the high levels of crime and violence in that country and singles out the particularly violent atmosphere of San Pedro Sula.

Given these facts, it is unconscionable that Central American children fleeing violence and poverty be deported back to such deplorable conditions. LULAC remains adamant that the current unaccompanied minors be treated as refugees and not be forced back to countries where they may face certain death. Our organization wants to reiterate its strong opposition to rewriting the 2008 law and points to the slaughter of these children as an example of the consequences that may come as a result of speeding up deportations at the expense of thorough screening, due process, and proper case management.

As the post-recess schedule begins to take shape, LULAC strongly urges Congress to put politics aside and stand up for the migrant refugee children. Let's not have one more child die because of Congressional inaction and lack of leadership. Please feel free to have your staff contact Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation, for more information at (202) 833-6130 or at LATorres@lulac.org.

Sincerely,

LULAC National President

1133 19th Street, NW, Suite 1000 • Washington, DC 20036 • (202) 833-6130 • FAX (202) 833-6135 • www.LULAC.org