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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4709

June 8, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary of Health and Human Services
United States Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Attorney General Sessions, Secretary Nielsen, and Secretary Azar:

I write regarding reports that potentially over 100 women seeking asylum are being detained at the Federal Detention Center (FDC) in SeaTac, Washington. Reports have also indicated that these individuals arrived in Washington state after being separated from their children and transferred from the U.S.-Mexico border by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I am extremely concerned that the Administration is violating longstanding asylum law and infringing on the due process of these women, while inflicting lasting harm to their families and children.

It has also come to my attention that the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has entered into Inter-Agency Agreements with ICE to detain individuals at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Sheridan, Oregon, the FCI in Phoenix, Arizona, the Federal Satellite Low (FSL) in La Tuna, Texas, and the FCI in Victorville, California, in addition to the FDC in SeaTac. As the Administration prepares to separate more families and hold parents away from their children in federal detention facilities across the country, I request the following information to better understand these new developments in immigration detention protocol:

- Where are the children of the parents being detained at SeaTac and other prisons across the country?
- What are the current policies in place for housing and caring for the sudden large number of children being separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border?
- What are you doing to ensure parents and children are transferred to locations within close proximity to each other?
- Since these individuals have the legal right to seek asylum, why are they being held in federal prison while their asylum claims are being processed?

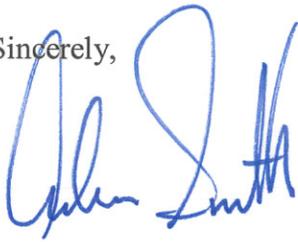
The Honorable Jeff Sessions, the Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen, and the Honorable Alex Azar
June 8, 2018
Page 2

- Do the detained people have access to legal services? What are you doing to ensure they know their legal rights as asylum seekers?
- When will the people detained at SeaTac and other federal prisons be released and when will they be reunited with their children?
- What protocol do you have in place to reunite parents with their children?

In addition to answering these questions, I urge you to immediately halt the terribly inhumane policy of separating children from their parents and work diligently to reunite families. This “zero tolerance policy” goes against basic human dignity.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Smith". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Adam Smith
Member of Congress