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

June 20, 2018

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen,

I am writing about news reports concerning parents who have been deported without their children. The *New York Times* reports that Elsa Johana Ortiz Enriquez was deported without her son. "An immigration officer handed her a handwritten note on a pink slip of paper with the words, 'Call Shelter Son' and a telephone number. ...[but] she was deported before she could use it."

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee and a father, I am deeply concerned that these children will never see their parents again. I request that Department of Homeland Security answer the following questions:

1. Is it DHS' policy to reunite parents with their children before deportation? Yes or no only.
2. If the answer is yes to the above question, what is the process for DHS to reunite parents and their children?
3. If the answer is no to the first question, why?
4. If parents are deported without their children, what is the process of reuniting the parents with their children?
5. Does DHS coordinate with HHS?
6. How quickly can DHS locate a child's parent? (average length of time) Is there an electronic database? Is it a paper file?
7. Can DHS/HHS locate a parent for each child currently in custody? (I am concerned about the quality of the records.)
8. What does DHS plan to do with children that are not reconnected with their parents?

The Hidden Child Foundation, an organization of children who survived the Holocaust, recounts “the severe and lasting trauma they experienced as a consequence of their forced separation.”
Rachelle Goldstein said, “We know that the trauma of separation from parents lasts a lifetime. We still ache from the losses we suffered as a result of this separation... forcibly separating children from their parents is an act of cruelty under all circumstances.”

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Luis Correa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress