

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland  
Security**

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Governor of South Carolina  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

It was a pleasure speaking with you last week. Thank you for your letter.

As I mentioned during our conversation, to address the influx of illegal migrants into the Rio Grande Valley, our strategy is three-fold: (1) process the increased tide of migrants through the system as quickly and safely as possible; (2) stem the tide; and (3) do these things in a manner consistent with our laws and values as Americans. To effectively accomplish these things, the President has requested emergency supplemental appropriations of \$3.7 billion, including \$1.5 billion for DHS to support additional detention and removal facilities and enhanced processes, as well as increased activities to disrupt and dismantle the human smuggling organizations that lure these individuals into the dangerous journey from Central America.

Unaccompanied children are brought to a CBP processing center in McAllen, Texas, before being sent to the Department of Health and Human Services. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense has provided space at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas for HHS to house the children before HHS can place them. DoD is also providing facilities at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Ventura, California for the same purpose. HHS continues to work to identify additional facilities to house and process the influx of children. HHS specifically is soliciting offers of resources from states and communities to temporarily house children. These offers of emergency shelter options are then evaluated by a multi-agency federal team lead by HHS to determine if they meet required criteria. As I indicated during our call, I am not aware of any current plans to create such additional shelters or temporary housing facilities in South Carolina. However, HHS may place a child with an individual sponsor - usually parents or other relatives who may reside in South Carolina - while the child awaits immigration removal proceedings.

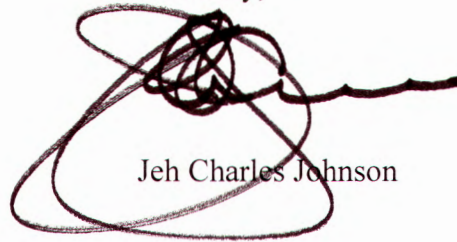
Further, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has not received any transfers of migrant families or unaccompanied children into the state of South Carolina, nor is the agency aware of any future plans to do so. ICE's Atlanta Field Office, which oversees operations in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, maintains detention centers only for single adults.

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I continue to believe that any potential DHS operational or policy changes are no substitute for comprehensive immigration reform passed by Congress. We believe that congressional efforts to effect commonsense immigration reform are the best way to provide comprehensive and lasting solutions for our broken immigration system. While we continue to support legislative efforts, we remain committed to effective immigration enforcement that prioritizes our national security, border security, and public safety.

Thank you again for your letter and your interest in this important matter. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs Philip A. McNamara at (202) 282-9310 or me at (202) 282-8203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeh Charles Johnson". The signature is highly stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive and overlapping lines. It is positioned above the printed name "Jeh Charles Johnson".

Jeh Charles Johnson