

State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

July 17, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Secretary Johnson,

First, let me say thank you for taking the time to speak with me directly yesterday regarding the ongoing crisis on our nation's southern border and the impact it might have on the state of South Carolina. I very much appreciated our discussion.

I also greatly appreciate your confirmation that there are currently no shelters or facilities – military or otherwise – in South Carolina being used to house the minors who are being abandoned at the border with Mexico, and your assurance that there are no current plans to use any South Carolina facilities for this purpose in the future. I do ask that if those plans are developed at any point going forward that you personally notify me immediately of any shift in policy. It is my firm belief that the people of South Carolina have the right to know exactly who the federal government is placing within our borders.

That brings me to the additional purpose of this letter. While I take comfort in the knowledge that South Carolina is not being used as a mass shelter, the fact that this crisis on our border is happening at all gives me great concern. As long as our border remains dangerously unsecure and the policy of the United States government is to accommodate those who cross into our nation illegally for an indefinite period of time, the incentives for such migration will continue to exist.

As a mother, the idea that thousands of children will continue to be left to fend for themselves as they attempt to cross into the United States is deeply disturbing. That they are being deserted in mass numbers is truly a humanitarian crisis. This once again highlights the failure of the federal government to adequately perform its most basic and crucial function – securing the sovereignty of the United States of America.

As the daughter of immigrants who came to this country legally more than four decades ago, the idea that immigration has played a central role in the development of America into the greatest,

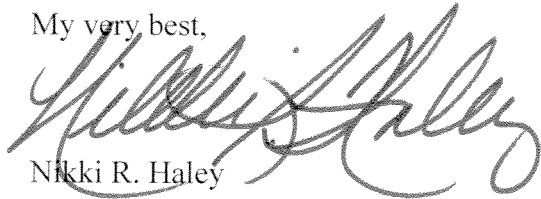
The Honorable Jeh Johnson

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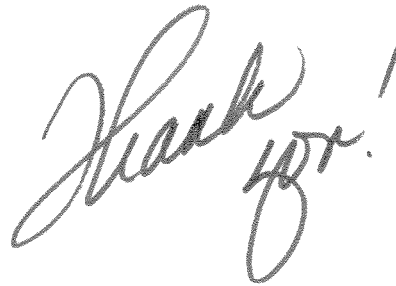
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strongest nation in the world has been a permanent fixture of my life. I fully support our American tradition of immigration. But my parents, like millions before and after, came here legally. I implore you to use all the resources at your disposal to secure our border and restore the rule of law, and in so doing, prevent untold thousands of additional children from enduring what is undoubtedly a horrifying ordeal.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nikki R. Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

A handwritten note in cursive script that reads "Thank you!".