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March 31, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

I write to you to express my concerns regarding a report from the *Wall Street Journal*<sup>1</sup> that stated that unaccompanied migrant children, who crossed the border illegally and are currently held in HHS shelters, would be released "before sponsors' background checks have been completed."

Along with this information, it's been recently reported<sup>2</sup> that HHS is "[N]o longer requiring staff at migrant holding facilities to pass an FBI background check to work there."

You may remember that in 2016, a Senate report<sup>3</sup> found that the Department of Health and Human Services under President Obama "[P]laced more than a dozen immigrant children in the custody of human traffickers after it failed to conduct background checks of caregivers."

It is jarring that the Biden administration has not learned from the mistakes of the past. I am greatly concerned by these deeply troubling reports and I hope the agency will reverse course on these policies to ensure that they are not further endangering these migrant children.

Sincerely,

Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wsj.com/articles/border-crossings-by-migrant-children-to-rise-sharply-according-to-internal-u-s-government-estimates-11616800942?mod=hp\\_lead\\_pos3](https://www.wsj.com/articles/border-crossings-by-migrant-children-to-rise-sharply-according-to-internal-u-s-government-estimates-11616800942?mod=hp_lead_pos3)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbs7.com/2021/03/30/fbi-background-checks-waived-for-staff-at-migrant-holding-facilities/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/29/us/politics/us-placed-immigrant-children-with-traffickers-report-says.html>