

Amendment to Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Bill, 2019

Offered by Mr. Price of North Carolina, Ms. Lowey of New York, Mr. Cuellar of Texas,
and Ms. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts

On page 110 of the bill, after the final section (before the short title) insert the following at the appropriate place:

“Sec. -- Beginning with April 2018, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a monthly report on, with respect to children who were separated from their parents or legal guardians by the Department of Homeland Security and subsequently classified as unaccompanied alien children and transferred to the custody of the HHS’ Office of Refugee Resettlement—

- (1) the number and ages of children so separated at or between ports of entry;
- (2) the length of any such separation;
- (3) the status of any efforts undertaken by the Secretary to reunify such children with a parent or legal guardian; and
- (4) the number of any such reunifications, and whether the reunified families were placed in family detention.”

On page 99 of the Committee Report, under the heading “REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE,” insert the following language directly after the table:

“Unaccompanied Children

The Committee directs that in cases of separation, within 24 hours, parents, legal guardians, or other relatives shall be informed of the whereabouts of their children and children shall be informed of the whereabouts of their parents, legal guardians, or other relatives, except in cases of suspected abuse or trafficking.

The Committee also directs the Secretary of HHS to work in collaboration with the Secretary of DHS to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and of the Senate within 60 days of this bill’s enactment detailing actions it has taken and will take and policies it has implemented and will implement to facilitate: 1) the ability of separated children to make contact and maintain communication with their separated parents, relatives, legal guardians, or primary caregivers (for tender-age and non-verbal children, this should include methods to facilitate in-person visits and video chats); 2) the ability of family members residing abroad to utilize the hotline to receive

information on the status and location of separated children; and 3) the coordinated reunification and post-release support of a separated child and adult family member, when it is in the best interest of the child.”