

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary McAleenan:

We write to inquire on the reasoning for prohibiting donations by private citizens, not-for-profits, and businesses to migrant processing centers managed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Specifically, donations of hygiene items for unaccompanied children and children in family units.

While accepting voluntary services is prohibited by the *Antideficiency Act*, 31USC §1342, there appears to be an exemption in the case of “emergencies involving the safety of human life.” Given the dramatic increase in apprehensions at the border and the corresponding strain at processing centers, it seems the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and CBP may be able to accept voluntary services intended to provide for migrant children.

To better enable DHS and CBP to provide for children in the centers, we ask:

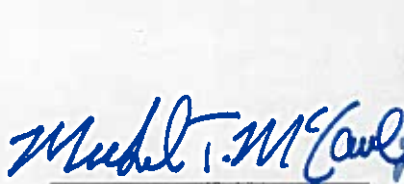
- What is prohibiting DHS and CBP from accepting donations: statute or internal policy?
- If statute is prohibiting DHS and CBP from accepting donations, would legislative action allowing for temporary waiver of such statutes ease the burden on DHS and CBP?
- What legislative measures would DHS and CBP require/request to best enable the distribution of donations in a timely and safe manner?

We look forward to your timely response. This is something we need to address in hours and days, not weeks and months.

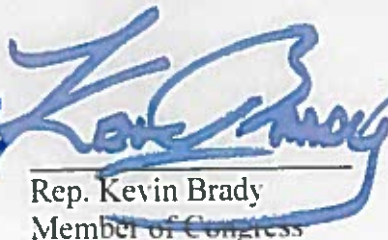
Never Forget.



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Rep. Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Rep. Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



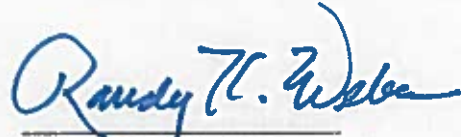
Rep. Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress



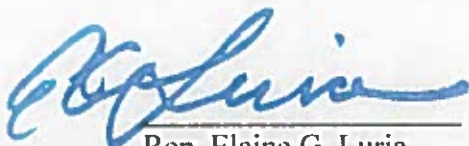
Rep. Will Hurd
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Rep. Van Taylor
Member of Congress



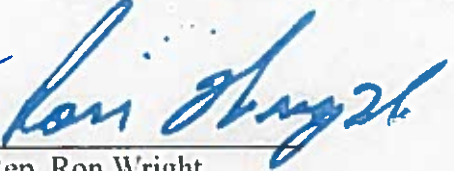
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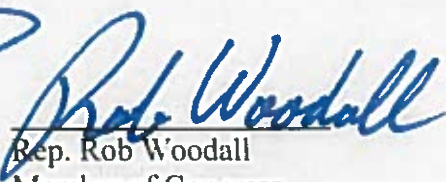
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