

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

We write urging you to immediately terminate Scott Lloyd as the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). We are extremely troubled by the recent report that Mr. Lloyd's own personal policy has kept immigrant children detained for more than eight months¹ and we continue to be appalled by his actions to deny young women their constitutional right to have an abortion, putting their lives in danger.

The Director of ORR, as defined in the Homeland Security Act of 2002, is responsible for coordinating and implementing the care and placement of unaccompanied alien children (UACs) in federal custody. Last month's emergency motion filed by the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) to stop implementation of Director Lloyd's policy requiring "his personal approval be given before any immigrant child under heightened supervision can be released" proves that Director Lloyd is unfit to hold this position.²

It has been reported his policy has left children in secure or staff-secure care detained on average for eight months, with some immigrant children detained for more than one year.³ During Fiscal Year 2016, the children in secure or staff-secure care were typically released from ORR custody within 45 days.⁴ Furthermore, by law, ORR must ensure that children are "promptly placed in the least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child."⁵ If ORR has concluded that these children no longer pose a threat to anyone, there is no rational basis for keeping them detained for this extended period of time, which is anything but prompt.

Finally, we reiterate our previous calls that Director Lloyd's violation of young immigrant women's constitutional right to have an abortion warrants his termination effective immediately.

¹ PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF THEIR MOTION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION at 1, *LVM v. Lloyd et al*, No. 1:18-cv-01453-PAC (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 30, 2018).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

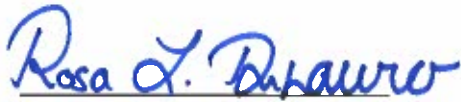
⁴ *The MS-13 Problem: Investigating Gang Membership, its Nexus to Illegal Immigration, and Federal Efforts to End the Threat before Committee on the Judiciary*, 115th Cong. (2017) (statement of Scott Lloyd, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families), available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asl/testimony/2017-06/statement-scott-lloyd-ms-13-problem.html> (accessed May 2, 2018).

⁵ 8 U.S.C. § 1232(c)(2)(A).

Director Lloyd, who is not a medical professional, has shown a complete disregard for the United States Constitution, abused his authority, and tried to force his personal beliefs on immigrant women in his custody over and over.

Director Lloyd continues to fail to provide immigrant children with the opportunity to achieve their full potential in the United States of America through excessive detainment or by denying them the freedom to make their own reproductive health decisions. We ask once again that you ensure Mr. Lloyd is immediately terminated.

Sincerely,



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Patty Murray
U.S. Senator