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July 2, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Mr. Ronald D. Vitiello  
Acting Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
500 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Nielsen and Acting Director Vitiello:

As you know, the president's policy of separating families at the border has led to thousands of children being dispersed throughout the country without their parents. Two of those children – J.S.R. and V.F.B. – have been placed in Connecticut, thousands of miles from their mother and father. I write to ask that you immediately release these children and their parents so that they can be reunited.

J.S.R. is a nine-year-old boy who fled with his father from Honduras after J.S.R.'s grandparents were murdered and a body was left in the family's backyard. While he was asleep in a Texas facility, he was separated from his father by DHS and ultimately transported across the country to Connecticut. V.F.B. is a fourteen-year-old girl who came to America with her mother after the murder of her stepfather in El Salvador and forcibly separated from her mother by DHS personnel. The two children, who came to this country seeking freedom from fear, were taken from their parents at the United States border; repeatedly deceived about their parents' locations; and now are being held in indefinite detention, apart from their parents. V.F.B. has not seen her mother in at least 46 days. J.S.R. has not seen his father in almost a month.

Last week, a federal court gave the government 30 days to right the monstrous wrong done to J.S.R., V.F.B., and more than 2,000 children like them across the country.<sup>1</sup> So far, I have seen no sign that the government is complying with this court order or preparing to exercise compassion and care in reuniting these families that our federal agents tore apart. And with every day that passes, the trauma inflicted on innocent children is compounded.

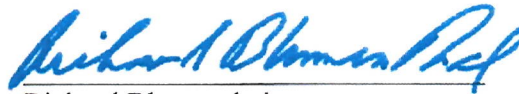
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<sup>1</sup> See *Ms. L. v. U.S. Immigration & Customs Enf't*, No. 18cv0428 DMS (MDD), 2018 WL 3129486, at \*12 (S.D. Cal. June 26, 2018) ("Defendants must reunify all Class Members with their minor children age five (5) and over within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Order.").

I urge you to release J.S.R.'s father ([REDACTED]) and V.F.B.'s mother ([REDACTED]) so that they can be reunited with the children who so desperately need their care and protection – an action that DHS is already compelled to take under the federal court order in *Ms. L. v. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement*.<sup>2</sup> While DHS works to secure their release, I further request that you transfer these two parents to Connecticut so they can participate in their children's legal proceedings, including a habeas corpus proceeding initiated today in Connecticut federal court. Since these children were separated from their parents as the result of a "chaotic circumstance of the government's own making,"<sup>3</sup> they should be reunited at no cost to the children or their parents.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Sam Simon at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at \*11–12.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at \*11.