

JOHN RAY CLEMMONS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 55



State of Tennessee
House of Representatives

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June 20, 2018

Gov. Bill Haslam
Office of the Governor
First Floor, Tennessee State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Relocation of Immigrant Children to Tennessee

Dear Governor Haslam,

This correspondence concerns the deeply concerning news of children being separated from their parents at our national border. It has come to my attention that children who have been involuntarily separated from their parents are being distributed across the country to various facilities for housing purposes.

While I strongly disagree with this federal policy and consider it directly adverse to our country's most fundamental ideals, neither of us, as state officials, have any power to right this ongoing wrong. However, should these reported relocations of children be accurate, you may be in a position to slightly lessen the devastating immediate and long-term impacts of this policy. To this end, I would respectfully encourage and request you to sign an executive order requiring that any minor child who has been detained by the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and/or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") and is involuntarily transferred to or otherwise involuntarily located in Tennessee by a federal agency have or be immediately provided with appropriate documentation containing the identity, location, and contact information for the child's parent/s or legal guardian/s.

While your office is vested with broad powers to enter executive orders, I understand that you may be somewhat limited with respect to inherently federal matters. Should you lack the legal authority to enter an executive order of the type requested, I would ask that you make a good faith effort and utilize any and all tools within your legal authority and jurisdiction to protect the health and emotional well-being of the innocent children in our state. I make this request of you, not only as a father but also as a fellow man of conviction who recognizes and appreciates the moral significance and consequences of doing what is right.

I look forward to hearing from you soon in response to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Ray Clemmons".

John Ray Clemmons
State Representative