



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

July 5, 2018

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

Scott Lloyd  
Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Mary E. Switzer Building  
330 C St., S.W.  
Washington DC 20201

Re: Separated Children with Disabilities

Dear Secretary Azar and Director Lloyd:

The [Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities \(CCD\)](#), the nation's largest disability coalition representing over 100 national disability organizations, writes to ask you about the status of children with disabilities who have been separated from their families and are in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. We are extremely concerned about the welfare of these children. CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

We understand that many of the children and youth who have been separated have disabilities. We request the following information from you:

- How many of the children and youth who have been separated from families have disabilities?
- What steps are being taken to ensure that their disability-related needs are met while in detention?

- How many and what types of specialists are working with ORR to ensure that these children's disability-related needs are met and that service plans are developed and implemented to ensure that they are placed and appropriately supported in the least restrictive setting?
- How many of these children have in place a service plan to ensure that they are placed and appropriately supported in the least restrictive setting?
- How many of these children have been reunited with families and in what settings?
- How many of these children have been moved out of detention and to what types of settings?
- For those children who remain detained, how long is it estimated that their detention will continue?
- What measures are being taken to minimize the trauma caused by family separation?
- What measures are being taken to avoid the inappropriate administration of psychiatric drugs to these children?
- We are also concerned about the children who arrived at the border as unaccompanied minors and have the same questions concerning those children.

We would appreciate responses to these questions as soon as possible. In addition, we would like to meet with you in person to discuss our concerns and how to remedy them.

Sincerely,

*Kim Musheno*

Kim Musheno  
Chair