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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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14 JENNY LISETTE FLORES, et al.,  
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16 Plaintiffs,  
17  
18 v.  
19 WILLIAM P. BARR, Attorney General  
of the United States, et al.,  
20  
21 Defendants.  
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Case No. 2:85-cv-4544-DMG  
**[PROPOSED] BRIEF OF THE  
STATES OF CALIFORNIA,  
MASSACHUSETTS,  
CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
HAWAII, ILLINOIS, MARYLAND,  
MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, NEW  
JERSEY, NEW MEXICO, NEW  
YORK, NORTH CAROLINA,  
OREGON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT,  
VIRGINIA, AND WASHINGTON  
AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT  
OF PLAINTIFFS' APPLICATION  
FOR TEMPORARY  
RESTRAINING ORDER**

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**INTRODUCTION**

1  
2 Amici curiae the States of California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware,  
3 District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New  
4 Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode  
5 Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington (Amici States) respectfully submit this  
6 proposed brief in support of Plaintiffs’ Application for a Temporary Restraining  
7 Order (TRO Application). The TRO Application and countless media reports detail  
8 the deplorable and inhumane conditions in which the federal government is  
9 currently holding vulnerable immigrant children who are in Customs and Border  
10 Protection (CBP) custody in the El Paso and Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol  
11 Sectors at, or near, the border. Children are being held in extremely cold facilities,  
12 denied access to basic needs such as adequate and sufficient food, drinking water,  
13 emergency medical care, soap, showers, toothbrushes and clean clothing, deprived  
14 of sleep, and tasked to care for other very young children. The Court’s immediate  
15 intervention is necessary to prevent further harm to these children by compelling  
16 the federal government to comply with its legal obligations to hold children in safe  
17 and sanitary conditions.

18 For more than two decades, the federal government has been required to  
19 meet minimum standards for the facilities in which immigrant children may be  
20 confined. These minimum standards, established in the *Flores* Settlement  
21 Agreement, require, among other things, that the federal government place children  
22 in border facilities that are safe and sanitary and make every effort to release  
23 children or otherwise promptly transfer children to state-licensed facilities.

24 The federal government must be immediately compelled to comply with its  
25 legal obligations to immigrant children under the *Flores* Settlement Agreement and  
26 principles of substantive due process. The harm caused to these children will have  
27 long-lasting effects well beyond the time of their release from CBP facilities.  
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**STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

Amici States have a substantial interest in protecting immigrant children who reside or will come to reside within our borders and ensuring that they are treated humanely and in accordance with the principles embodied in the *Flores* Settlement Agreement and the U.S. Constitution. Every year, thousands of immigrant children are released from immigration detention and reunified with family members or other adult sponsors who are residents of the Amici States.<sup>1</sup> These children become members of our communities, attend our schools, and, in some cases, grow into adults raising their own families in Amici States.

For decades, the *Flores* Settlement Agreement has set minimum standards for the facilities in which immigrant children may be confined, including requirements that these children be placed in safe and sanitary facilities while in CBP custody. The federal government is clearly failing to meet its legal obligations and in doing so is causing long-lasting physical and mental harm to vulnerable children, which will in turn make it more difficult for the Amici States to provide for the health, education, and well-being of children who come to reside in our communities.

Therefore, Amici States vigorously object to the federal government’s despicable and inhumane treatment of immigrant children at border holding facilities. For the following reasons, Amici States urge the Court to grant Plaintiffs’ application for a temporary restraining order.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) released 4,655 children to family members and other sponsors in California in Fiscal Year 2018. See U.S. Dep’t of Health & Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, *Unaccompanied Alien Children Released to Sponsors by State* (last visited July 9, 2019), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state>.

1 **ARGUMENT**

2 **I. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S ACTIONS VIOLATE THE**  
3 **FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY RE-ESTABLISHING**  
4 **THE INTOLERABLE PRE-FLORES CONDITIONS.**

5 **A. The *Flores* Settlement Agreement’s Requirements Are Designed**  
6 **to Ensure Humane Treatment of Children in Immigration**  
7 **Custody.**

8 The *Flores* Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement) is the guiding  
9 document applicable to all immigrant children in federal government custody. In  
10 accordance with its “general policy favoring release,” the Settlement Agreement  
11 requires that detained children be placed “in the least restrictive setting appropriate  
12 to the minor’s age and special needs” and be released “without unnecessary delay”  
13 to a parent, guardian, adult relative, adult designated by the parent, a licensed  
14 program, or another adult deemed appropriate, so long as continued detention is not  
15 necessary to secure the child’s timely appearance at their immigration hearing or to  
16 ensure the child’s safety or the safety of others. Settlement Agreement at ¶¶ 11, 14.  
17 Children who cannot be immediately released to a family member or other sponsor  
18 must be placed in non-secure, state-licensed facilities. *Id.* at ¶¶ 6, 12, 19.

19 To ensure that the federal government treats all children in its custody with  
20 “dignity, respect and special concern for their particular vulnerability as minors,”  
21 the Settlement Agreement sets forth minimum standards for the detention, release,  
22 and treatment of children in federal custody, including children being held  
23 temporarily in CBP facilities. Among other requirements, the Settlement  
24 Agreement requires that CBP facilities holding children must be “safe and sanitary”  
25 and “consistent with the [federal government’s] concern for the particular  
26 vulnerability of minors.” *Id.* at ¶12. Facilities must provide children access to  
27 toilets and sinks, drinking water and food, medical assistance if the child is in need  
28 of emergency services, adequate temperature control and ventilation, adequate  
supervision, and contact with family members who were detained with the child.  
*Id.* Unaccompanied children must be held separately from unrelated adults, unless



1 segregation is not immediately possible, but under no circumstances may these  
2 children be detained for more than 24 hours with an unrelated adult. *Id.*

3 The Settlement Agreement's core purpose is to ensure that all children in  
4 federal custody are treated with dignity and respect and housed in safe and sanitary  
5 facilities. In fact, the minimum standards set forth in the Settlement Agreement,  
6 which the federal government expressly agreed to, were a direct response to the  
7 federal government's previous systemic failure to provide safe and appropriate  
8 facilities and services for children in its care. Prior to the approval of the  
9 Settlement Agreement, immigrant children held in federal custody were subjected  
10 to deplorable conditions of confinement. Children were placed in detention centers  
11 with barbed-wire fences; deprived of education, recreation, and visitation; subjected  
12 to arbitrary strip searches; and comingled with unrelated adults. *Reno v. Flores*,  
13 507 U.S. 292, 327-328 (1993) (Stevens, J., dissenting). The federal government's  
14 continued failure to hold children in facilities that are safe and sanitary thus violates  
15 the Settlement Agreement by once again depriving children in federal custody of  
16 basic necessities and reverting back to systematic conditions similar to, or arguably  
17 worse than, those that gave rise to the *Flores* litigation.

18 **B. CBP is Holding Children in Terrible Conditions in Violation of**  
19 **the *Flores* Settlement Agreement.**

20 The dire and cruel conditions in the CBP facilities in the El Paso and Rio  
21 Grande Valley Border Patrol Sectors are a clear violation of the federal  
22 government's legal obligations under the Settlement Agreement. The TRO  
23 Application and numerous news reports have described the inhumane and unsafe  
24 conditions under which the federal government is holding immigrant children in  
25 CBP custody. According to these reports, attorneys who recently visited the CBP  
26 facility in Clint, Texas, in the El Paso sector, found at least 250 infants, children  
27 and teens being held at the facility, some for nearly a month.<sup>2</sup> Some of the children

28 <sup>2</sup> Cedar Attanasio et al., *Lawyers: 250 children held in bad conditions at*

1 had not showered or bathed or been given a clean change of clothes since arriving  
2 at the facility, and they had inadequate access to soap and toothbrushes.<sup>3</sup> Children  
3 were filthy and wearing clothes covered in bodily fluids, including urine.<sup>4</sup> They  
4 were being given insufficient food, and were forced to sleep on cold concrete  
5 floors.<sup>5</sup> At least 15 children at the facility had the flu, and 10 more were being held  
6 in medical quarantine.<sup>6</sup> Children as young as seven or eight years old were being  
7 asked to care for toddlers they just met.<sup>7</sup> And some children who arrived with a  
8 parent or non-parent relative have been separated from their adult caregiver. TRO  
9 Application, ECF No. 569-2, Ex. 3 at ¶ 3.<sup>8</sup> Similar conditions have been found at  
10 other CBP facilities in the El Paso and Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sectors.<sup>9</sup>

11 *Texas border*, AP News (June 20, 2019),  
12 <https://www.apnews.com/a074f375e643408cb9b8d1a5fc5acf6a>.

13 <sup>3</sup> Lizzie O’Leary, ‘*Children Were Dirty, They Were Scared, and They Were*  
14 *Hungry*’, The Atlantic (June 25, 2019),  
15 <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2019/06/child-detention-centers-immigration-attorney-interview/592540/>; Isaac Chotiner, *Inside a Texas Building Where The Government Is Holding Immigrant Children*, The New Yorker (June 22, 2019), <https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/inside-a-texas-building-where-the-government-is-holding-immigrant-children>.

16 <sup>4</sup> Lizzie O’Leary, ‘*Children Were Dirty, They Were Scared, and They Were*  
17 *Hungry*’, *supra* note 3.

18 <sup>5</sup> Isaac Chotiner, *Inside a Texas Building Where The Government Is Holding Immigrant Children*, *supra* note 3.

19 <sup>6</sup> Cedar Attanasio et al., *Attorneys: Texas border facility is neglecting migrant kids*, AP News (June 21, 2019),  
20 <https://www.apnews.com/46da2dbe04f54adbb875cfbc06bbc615>.

21 <sup>7</sup> Lizzie O’Leary, ‘*Children Were Dirty, They Were Scared, and They Were*  
*Hungry*’, *supra* note 3.

22 <sup>8</sup> Cedar Attanasio et al., *supra* note 6.

23 <sup>9</sup> A physician who was granted access to the Ursula facility in McAllen,  
24 Texas, the largest CBP detention center in the country, found similarly disturbing  
25 conditions at the facility, including “extreme cold temperatures, lights on 24 hours a  
26 day, no adequate access to medical care, basic sanitation, water, or adequate food.”  
27 Teen mothers in custody were not able to wash their children’s bottles, and children  
28 older than 6 months were not provided age-appropriate food. A flu outbreak at the  
facility led to five infants being hospitalized. Serena Marshal, et al., *Doctor compares conditions for unaccompanied children at immigrant holding centers to ‘torture facilities’*, ABC News (June 23, 2019),  
<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/doctor-compares-conditions-immigrant-holding-centers-torture-facilities/story?id=63879031>.

1 In fact, a report by the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of  
2 Homeland Security (DHS) published on July 2, 2019, urged DHS “to take  
3 *immediate steps* to alleviate dangerous overcrowding and prolonged detention of  
4 children and adults in the Rio Grande Valley.”<sup>10</sup> The report specifically found that  
5 32% of children in this sector had been held for longer than the 72 hours allowed by  
6 the Settlement Agreement, that many children had not been provided access to  
7 showers, clean clothes, or hot meals, and that some children were being held in  
8 closed cells.<sup>11</sup>

9 This Court has already twice found that conditions such as those at the CBP  
10 facilities in the El Paso and Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sectors violate the  
11 Settlement Agreement’s “safe and sanitary” standard. The Court’s July 24, 2015  
12 order held that “the widespread and deplorable conditions” in CBP facilities—  
13 including extremely cold holding cells with only mylar blankets for warmth,  
14 overcrowded holding rooms with 100 or more unrelated adults and children who  
15 were forced to sleep standing up or not at all, and inadequate nutrition and  
16 hygiene—were a material breach of the Settlement Agreement’s requirement that  
17 the federal government provide “safe and sanitary” holding cells for children while  
18 they are in temporary custody. *In Chambers – Order re Pls.’ Mot. to Enforce*  
19 *Settlement of Class Action and Defs.’ Mot. to Amend Settlement Agreement*, No.  
20 2:85-cv-4544-DMG-AGR (C.D. Cal. July 24, 2015), ECF No. 177. On June 27,  
21 2017, the Court again found that the unsafe and unsanitary conditions at CBP  
22 facilities in the Rio Grande Valley Border Patrol Sector—cold temperatures;  
23 inadequate food, sleeping conditions, and hygiene products (no soap, no change of  
24 clothes, no pillows or blankets, and no toothbrushes); and a lack of access to clean  
25

26 <sup>10</sup> U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General,  
27 *Management Alert – DHS Needs to Address Dangerous Overcrowding and*  
*Prolonged Detention of Children and Adults in the Rio Grande Valley*, OIG-19-51,  
at 1 (July 2, 2019) (emphasis added).

28 <sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 3, 6.

1 drinking water—were a violation of the Settlement Agreement. *In Chambers –*  
2 *Order re Pls.’ Mot. To Enforce and Appoint a Special Monitor*, No. 2:85-cv-4544-  
3 DMG-AGR (C.D. Cal. June 27, 2017), ECF No. 363. The Court specifically found  
4 that hygiene products such as soap, towels, showers, dry clothing, and toothbrushes  
5 fell within the rubric of the Settlement Agreement’s safe and sanitary standard. *Id.*  
6 at 13. Yet, despite the Court’s *repeated* findings that these conditions are unsafe  
7 and unsanitary in violation of the Settlement Agreement, the federal government  
8 continues to hold vulnerable children under these same inhumane conditions in  
9 complete disregard for the children’s health, safety, and well-being.

10 **II. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S CONTRAVENTION OF THE**  
11 ***FLORES* SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IMPLICATES**  
12 **FUNDAMENTAL DUE PROCESS CONCERNS.**

13 Enforcement of the Settlement Agreement in this instance is all the more  
14 critical because of the vital constitutional interests at stake. The basic safeguards  
15 that this Court put into place to protect the well-being of children in federal custody  
16 also protect these children’s fundamental liberty interests, as enshrined in the Fifth  
17 Amendment’s Due Process Clause. “[W]hen the State . . . so restrains an  
18 individual’s liberty that it renders him unable to care for himself, and at the same  
19 time fails to provide for his basic human needs—*e.g.*, food, clothing, shelter,  
20 medical care, and reasonable safety—it [violates] . . . the Due Process Clause.”  
21 *DeShaney v. Winnebago Cty. Dep’t of Soc. Servs.*, 489 U.S. 189, 200 (1989). This  
22 is as true for children as it is for adults. *See, e.g., In re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1, 13 (1967)  
23 (“[N]either the Fourteenth Amendment nor the Bill of Rights is for adults alone.”);  
24 *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497, 500 (1954) (finding deprivation of a Fifth  
25 Amendment liberty interest when children were segregated in Washington, D.C.  
26 schools). By enforcing the Settlement Agreement in this instance, the Court would  
27 also protect the constitutional rights of vulnerable migrant children whose health,  
28 safety, and well-being are being actively and acutely compromised by the federal  
government’s practices and policies.

1 Plaintiffs have carefully documented that children are being detained by the  
2 federal government in deplorable conditions that are comparable to “torture  
3 facilities.” TRO Application at 3, 4-14, 17. In such circumstances, fundamental  
4 due process concerns are paramount. In the context of adults in a CBP detention  
5 center, an Arizona district court recently addressed the constitutionality of similarly  
6 unsafe and unsanitary conditions, including “deprivation of sleep, of hygienic and  
7 sanitary conditions, of adequate medical screening and care, of adequate food and  
8 water, and of warmth.” *Unknown Parties v. Johnson*, No. CV-15-00250-TUC-  
9 DCB, 2016 WL 8188563, at \*1 (D. Ariz. Nov. 18, 2016), *aff’d sub nom. Doe v.*  
10 *Kelly*, 878 F.3d 710 (9th Cir. 2017). Recognizing that such conditions likely  
11 violated due process requirements, the court issued a preliminary injunction that  
12 required CBP to ensure availability of hygienic items and bedding materials,  
13 provide adequate medical care, and monitor the facility’s temperature and  
14 cleanliness. *See id.* at \*15-16. The TRO Application presents an almost identical  
15 list of deprivations. The only difference is that the affected class consists of  
16 vulnerable and defenseless children, which renders the deprivations even more  
17 shocking and inhumane.

18 Notably, the deprivations at issue here would likely not pass constitutional  
19 muster even if they were applied to adults convicted of crimes. Under the Eighth  
20 Amendment, “[prisons] must provide humane conditions of  
21 confinement[, including] . . . adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care . . .  
22 .” *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 832 (1994).<sup>12</sup> The inadequate hygienic  
23 supplies, medicine, sanitation, water, food, temperatures, sleeping conditions, and  
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25 <sup>12</sup> The Due Process Clause provides protections “at least as great” as those  
26 the Eighth Amendment guarantees to convicted prisoners. *City of Revere v. Mass.*  
27 *Gen. Hosp.*, 463 U.S. 239, 244 (1983); *see also Youngberg v. Romeo*, 457 U.S. 307,  
28 315-16 (1982) (“If it is cruel and unusual punishment to hold convicted criminals in  
unsafe conditions, it must be unconstitutional [under the Due Process Clause] to  
confine the involuntarily committed—who may not be punished at all—in unsafe  
conditions.”).



1 medical care documented by Plaintiffs would raise serious constitutional questions  
2 under that standard. *See, e.g., Foster v. Runnels*, 554 F.3d 807, 812-15 (9th Cir.  
3 2009) (inadequate food violates Eighth Amendment); *Hoptowit v. Spellman*, 753  
4 F.2d 779, 783-84 (9th Cir. 1985) (inadequate plumbing and cleaning supplies both  
5 produce unhygienic conditions that violate Eighth Amendment); *Martino v. Carey*,  
6 563 F. Supp. 984, 999-1002 (D. Or. 1983) (overcrowding and inadequate clothing,  
7 sanitation, and heating violate Eighth Amendment). In other words, the federal  
8 government is civilly detaining innocent children in conditions like those that  
9 courts have declared unconstitutionally cruel and unusual for adults imprisoned for  
10 committing crimes. Swift and strict enforcement of the Settlement Agreement is  
11 necessary to address this constitutionally repugnant situation.

12 Additional constitutional concerns are raised by the forcible separation of  
13 children from their parents or relative caretakers and the indefinite detention of  
14 these children apart from these caretakers. The integrity of the family unit is  
15 protected by fundamental due process principles. *Stanley v. Illinois*, 405 U.S. 645,  
16 651 (1972). Indeed, “the right of family members to live together[] is part of the  
17 fundamental right of privacy.” *Halet v. Wend Inv. Co.*, 672 F.2d 1305, 1311 (9th  
18 Cir. 1982). Familial liberty interests may extend beyond parent-child relationships  
19 to non-parent relatives, especially when such relatives take on a primary caretaking  
20 role. *See Moore v. City of East Cleveland*, 431 U.S. 494, 505 (1977) (“Decisions  
21 concerning childrearing, which . . . other cases have recognized as entitled to  
22 constitutional protection, long have been shared by grandparents or other relatives  
23 who occupy the same household—indeed who may take on major responsibility for  
24 the rearing of the children.”). Thus, the practice of forcibly separating children  
25 from their parents or relative caretakers in civil detention facilities without any  
26 finding of parental unfitness or danger to a child likely violates due process  
27 principles. *Ms. L. v. ICE*, 302 F. Supp. 3d 1149, 1167 (S.D. Cal. 2018).

28 In a substantive due process claim challenging executive action, “the

1 threshold question is whether the behavior of the governmental officer is so  
2 egregious, so outrageous, that it may fairly be said to shock the contemporary  
3 conscience.” *Cty. of Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833, 847 n.8 (1998). It is  
4 difficult to imagine a circumstance more shocking to the contemporary conscience  
5 than children as young as infants being needlessly deprived of warmth, basic  
6 hygiene, medical attention, food, sleep, and the comfort of their loved ones.  
7 Indeed, the public outcry over the conditions faced by migrant children in recent  
8 weeks demonstrates widespread alarm and dismay—across the political spectrum  
9 and from all walks of life—at the *Flores* violations documented by Plaintiffs here.<sup>13</sup>  
10 Enforcement to remedy these circumstances is necessary to bring these facilities  
11 into compliance with not only the Settlement Agreement, but also basic principles  
12 of due process and human decency.

13 **III. IMMEDIATE INJUNCTIVE RELIEF IS NECESSARY TO**  
14 **PREVENT FURTHER HARM TO CHILDREN.**

15 **A. The Federal Government’s Actions are Causing Long-Term**  
16 **Harm to Vulnerable Children.**

17 Experts have repeatedly warned the federal government that “[c]onditions in  
18 U.S. detention facilities,” like those described in the TRO Application, “which  
19 include forcing children to sleep on cement floors, open toilets, constant light  
20 exposure, insufficient food and water, no bathing facilities, and extremely cold

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21  
22 <sup>13</sup> Media reports clearly attest to this public outcry. *See, e.g.,* Cedar  
23 Attanasio et al, *Lawmakers Decry Perilous Federal Lockups for Migrant Kids*, AP  
24 News (June 21, 2019),  
25 <https://www.apnews.com/7a411d9df0c1453e966287e6fe727616>; Editorial,  
26 *America Should Be Horrified by This*, Wash. Post (June 24, 2019),  
27 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/america-should-be-horrified-at-this/2019/06/24/489e1866-96be-11e9-830a-21b9b36b64ad\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.3ee7d7d59777](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/america-should-be-horrified-at-this/2019/06/24/489e1866-96be-11e9-830a-21b9b36b64ad_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.3ee7d7d59777); Editorial,  
28 *Border Policy Is Debatable. Soap for Migrant Children Shouldn’t Be*, Hous. Chron.  
(June 25, 2019),  
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Border-policy-is-debatable-Soap-for-migrant-14049027.php>.

1 temperatures, are traumatizing for children.”<sup>14</sup> In fact, the pediatrician who  
2 evaluated 39 children at CBP facilities reported that children she examined  
3 “showed symptoms of trauma.” TRO Application, ECF No. 569-2, Ex. 13 at ¶ 13.

4 Due to the harm caused to children held in these facilities, the American  
5 Academy of Pediatrics issued a Policy Statement on the Detention of Immigrant  
6 Children, which states “that detention or the separation of families for purposes of  
7 immigration enforcement or management are *never* in the best interest of  
8 children.”<sup>15</sup> Detention puts children “at risk of exploitation and abuse, denies them  
9 access to meaningful health care, and harms their ability to play and learn.  
10 Detained children experience acute mental trauma that will have long-term health  
11 consequences.”<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, the TRO Application evidences how the federal  
12 government’s improper separation of children from family members is causing  
13 additional harm. TRO Application at 12, ECF. No. 569-2, Ex. 2 at ¶¶ 3-4; Ex. 3 at  
14 ¶¶ 3, 5-6; Ex. 8 at ¶ 5; Ex. 9 at ¶ 6. “Children are at risk of suffering great  
15 emotional harm when they are removed from their loved ones.” *Ms. L. v. ICE*, 310  
16 F. Supp. 3d 1133, 1147 (S.D. Cal. 2018) (citing expert evidence).

17 The harm caused by the deplorable and inhumane conditions at CBP  
18 facilities and lack of adequate medical care is evidenced by the multiple child  
19 deaths in CBP custody since December 2018. In December 2018, a 7-year-old girl  
20 and an 8-year-old boy, both from Guatemala, died in CBP custody in the El Paso  
21 Sector.<sup>17</sup> In May 2019, a 16-year-old Guatemalan child died while in CBP custody

22 <sup>14</sup> Colleen Kraft, *American Association of Pediatrics Statement Opposing the*  
23 *Border Security and Immigration Reform Act*, Am. Ass’n. of Pediatrics (June 15,  
24 2018), <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAPStatementOpposingBorderSecurityandImmigrationReformAct.aspx>.

25 <sup>15</sup> Linton, et al., Council on Community Pediatrics, *Detention of Immigrant*  
26 *Children*, 139 Am. Acad. of Pediatrics 1, 6 (2017) (emphasis added),  
<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/139/5/e20170483.full.pdf>.

27 <sup>16</sup> Marion Hart, *Why Detaining Children is Harmful*, Unicef USA (June 21,  
2018), <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/why-detaining-children-harmful/34488>.

28 <sup>17</sup> Chris Boyette, et al., *Guatemalan boy died of flu and a bacterial infection*



1 in the Rio Grande Valley Sector.<sup>18</sup> The federal government’s failings must be  
2 immediately addressed to prevent further harm.

3 To prevent irreversible harms to children, the federal government is required  
4 to release children from custody “without unnecessary delay” and, for children who  
5 cannot be immediately released to a family member or other sponsor, to place them  
6 in non-secure, state-licensed facilities. Settlement Agreement at ¶¶ 6, 19. The  
7 requirement that children be placed in state-licensed facilities ensures that these  
8 children will be housed in humane conditions because the states monitor and  
9 regulate these facilities. California and other Amici States currently license and  
10 oversee children’s residential placement facilities that contract with the federal  
11 government to house immigrant children. State laws require these facilities to  
12 provide safe and sanitary conditions to children. For example, in California  
13 residential placements for children must provide “a safe, healthy, and comfortable  
14 home where he or she is treated with respect.” Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code  
15 § 16001.9(a)(1). Children in these facilities “shall [...] receive adequate and  
16 healthy food, adequate clothing,” “medical, dental, vision, and mental health  
17 services,” plus “[t]oiletries and personal hygiene products,” among many other  
18 required services. Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 16001.9(a)(3)-(4); Cal. Code Regs. tit.  
19 22, § 84072(d)(6).

20 The protections afforded to children by the Settlement Agreement and due  
21 process principles are designed to protect children from the very harms that the  
22 federal government is causing. Unless immediately stopped, the federal

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23 *while in US custody, autopsy shows*, CNN (Apr. 2, 2019),  
24 [https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/02/us/guatemala-felipe-gomez-alonzo-](https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/02/us/guatemala-felipe-gomez-alonzo-autopsy/index.html)  
25 *autopsy/index.html*; Amir Vera, *Autopsy determines 7-year-old Guatemalan girl*  
26 *died from sepsis while in US custody*, CNN (Mar. 30, 2019),  
27 [https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/29/us/guatemala-jakelin-caal-maquin-](https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/29/us/guatemala-jakelin-caal-maquin-autopsy/index.html)  
28 *autopsy/index.html*. CBP Sectors are found at: [https://www.cbp.gov/border-](https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/along-us-borders/border-patrol-sectors)  
*security/along-us-borders/border-patrol-sectors*.

27 <sup>18</sup> Nomaan Merchant, *5th migrant child dies after detention by US border*  
28 *agents*, Associated Press (May 20, 2019),  
<https://www.apnews.com/5a49d65213b54043825acc282830b139>.

1 government will continue causing long-lasting harm to children held in CBP  
2 facilities.

3 **B. Amici States Must Address the Harm these Children Experience**  
4 **in Federal Custody Upon Their Release to our Communities.**

5 Every year, thousands of immigrant children are welcomed into Amici States  
6 upon their release from federal immigration custody. Amici States have a strong  
7 interest in the well-being of immigrant children held in immigration custody,  
8 including CBP facilities, because many of them will eventually join our  
9 communities. For example, from October 2018 through May 2019, over 51  
10 percent of all unaccompanied immigrant children, or 23,874 children, released from  
11 federal immigration custody were released to adult sponsors residing in Amici  
12 States.<sup>19</sup>

13 Amici States provide education and an array of services, including medical  
14 and mental health care services, to foster the development and safeguard the well-  
15 being of these vulnerable children and their families as they integrate themselves  
16 into their new communities. The long-term physical and mental health harms  
17 caused by the federal government's actions, as detailed in the TRO Application,  
18 will require more extensive services to the children and their families, requiring  
19 Amici States to expend additional funds and redirect resources from other critically  
20 needed services. Children who have suffered these harms will also require  
21 additional supports and services in state-funded school systems. Amici States  
22 request the Court's intervention to limit the damage being done by the federal  
23 government to children currently in CBP facilities and, going forward, to prevent  
24 these kinds of long-lasting harms to children and their families from occurring in  
25 the first instance.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>19</sup> See U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Services, Office of Refugee  
28 Resettlement, *Unaccompanied Alien Children Released to Sponsors by State* (last  
visited July 9, 2019), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/unaccompanied-alien-children-released-to-sponsors-by-state>.

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**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs’ *ex parte* application for temporary restraining order should be granted.

Dated: July 9, 2019

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