

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2405

May 23, 2024

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Jeff Hild
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

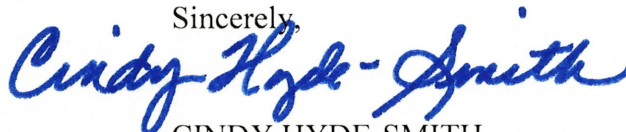
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Hild:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the potential housing of migrants in Tunica, Mississippi. I have been made aware by local and State leaders about the Office of Refugee Resettlement seeking locations and facilities with an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract with the Department of Interior to house migrants in an Influx Care Facility (ICF). One such facility seeking this contract award is a former casino hotel located near the border of Tunica and DeSoto counties that has about 1,300 rooms and the ability to accommodate an estimated 2,000 people. Constituents contacting me are deeply troubled about the potential negative economic impact that such a resettlement project would have on the local communities and the costs that state and local government agencies would have to bear to accommodate such a population. It is unclear at this point if Tunica, Mississippi, is able, willing, and prepared to manage such an influx. A statement issued by the Tunica County Sheriff's Office emphasized the existing strain on public safety and healthcare facilities, which would be exacerbated if such a contract were to be awarded.

I understand that proposals continue to be submitted for consideration to become designated as an ICF with a deadline of summer 2024. I would like to request a call with you to further discuss the proposal process and express my concerns about such a facility being located in Mississippi.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator