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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly,

I write to follow-up on our conversation of Thursday, May 4. I appreciate that we were able to talk, as well as your willingness to take a fresh look at the issues I raised regarding the 13 remaining families in detention at the Berks County Residential Center.

Per the letter I sent you earlier this week (which is attached) with my colleagues from the House and Senate, I have two specific requests:

1. **For the four children who have been granted Special Immigrant Juvenile Status I request their immediate release and the release of their mothers.** As these children are now eligible for legal permanent residency, there is no reason for their continued detention.
2. **For the other nine families, I request that you and your staff take a fresh look at their cases and provide them a new opportunity to plead their case before an asylum officer.** While these families have litigated their cases in Federal court, the issue before the court was solely one of jurisdiction. The Federal court proceedings did not look at or consider the merits of their individual asylum claims. These families fled brutal violence and death threats in their home countries only to be placed in detention and denied the right to fully state their asylum claims.

Please extend my gratitude to your Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs Ben Cassidy, who met with my staff and made similar commitments to them when he met with them yesterday. I have also attached contact information for my staff so your team can follow-up with them as needed.

I appreciate your prompt attention on this matter and look forward to a prompt response. I will be in touch with you shortly with additional information on the remaining cases.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator