

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Andrea Chapman
Acting Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra and Acting Director Chapman,

We write today to express our concerns regarding the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) decision to resettle unaccompanied children (UACs) at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, North Carolina.

As you know, the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 entitled "The Fiscal Year 2022 Health and Human Services (HHS) Budget." During his line of questioning at that hearing, Representative Richard Hudson asked Secretary Becerra, "Have you already sent or are you planning on sending minors to North Carolina?" Secretary Becerra's response was, "there is no plan that we have to shelter children in North Carolina. We are always looking for sites to provide the type of safety and security that children need, and we have sites throughout the country, but there is no plan that we can tell you to shelter children in North Carolina."

The decision to now resettle UACs in Greensboro directly contradicts what you said previously and comes as a complete surprise to us and our constituencies. The announcement from the Board of Directors of the American Hebrew Academy, dated June 10, 2022, stated that the school will be leased to the federal government for a period of five years for use as a transitional campus for UACs. It also stated they expect UACs to begin arriving to North Carolina in July of this year. This quick turnaround leaves many of our local leaders in our communities and state struggling to make necessary preparations to ensure the safety of those impacted.

Due to the failures of the Biden administration to secure our southern border, every state, including North Carolina, is now suffering from the impacts of the Biden border crisis. Given the effects of this crisis and decision to house UACs in our state, we demand answers to the following questions to help protect our constituents:

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1. When did communication between the ORR and the American Hebrew Academy begin, in relation to using the Academy as a transition site for UACs?
2. What plans do you have in place to ensure standards of humane treatment of UACs at the Academy? Specifically, what plans do you have to prevent overcrowding, violence, and outbreaks of disease from occurring?
3. Are there other locations in North Carolina your office is in discussions with to house UACs?
4. What actions are being taken by the Biden Administration to ensure the use of the Academy as a transitional campus does not pose a danger to North Carolina communities?
5. How much money are the taxpayers paying to house UACs in North Carolina? How much money are taxpayers paying to house UACs across the nation?

We look forward to a prompt response.

Sincerely,



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress