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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

June 5, 2014

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
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Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Chairman Carper:

On May 30, 2014, the Arizona Republic posted a story entitled “Scores of Undocumented Migrants Dropped Off in Arizona” that details hundreds of illegal aliens – predominantly unaccompanied minors and family units – apprehended in Texas being flown into Tucson, Arizona for processing. In addition, the story indicates that a number of these illegal aliens from Central America “have been released at Greyhound Lines, Inc. bus stations in Tucson and Phoenix.” According to details provided in the story, “[a]fter screening, they are being released under supervision and then required to report to a local ICE office near their destination within 15 days.” It appears that, at the time of reporting, that ICE was unable to confirm how many of the hundreds flown into Arizona received the Greyhound station release.

As we are certain you are aware, while border security remains a paramount concern, Arizona’s Tucson Sector no longer has the dubious distinction of being the busiest Border Patrol sector in the nation. It should come as no surprise that the reporting on the practice of flying illegal aliens into the state from Texas and releasing them at local bus stations has been met with some frustration by Arizonans. In addition, it appears the Department of Homeland Security is ill prepared to deal with this steady increase unaccompanied minors and third-party nationals entering the country.

Earlier this week Senator Flake and I sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson seeking to obtain answers on the adequacy and humaneness of the approach being taken by DHS. In the interim while we await his response and given the importance of this matter and the interest of many members of the committee, I respectfully request the committee hold a hearing on these issues as soon as practicable.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



John McCain

cc: The Honorable Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs