



EL RESCATE, 1501 W. 8TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

Los Angeles, August 9, 2019

The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
Chair, Homelessness and Poverty
The Honorable Members of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee

Re: Council File 19-0777 Unaccompanied Minors in the City and County of Los Angeles

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell, and Members:

El Rescate is a 501(c)3 non-profit that works providing legal counsel to immigrant families, throughout the City of Los Angeles. We write in support of Council File 19-0777, the initiative focusing on the urgent needs of the unaccompanied minor population.

For more than 38 years, El Rescate has advocated for the rights of immigrant communities throughout the city, in order to improve their quality of life, many of them from Central America. For the past year, El Rescate partnering with other community-based organizations has organized multiple delegation visits to the city of Tijuana, Mexico, in order to assess and bring aid to the thousands of migrant families awaiting asylum hearings to be considered for entry into the United States. Unaccompanied minors represent a small, but significant portion of the recent migration movements that require special attention for them to succeed.

The Federal government's treatment of this population has been widely shared by national news outlets. From Florida to Texas and throughout, there is documentation of the awful conditions faced by children awaiting asylum. However, with coordination, local governments like Los Angeles can play a leadership role in ensuring that the children formerly held in custody by the federal government get the care that they need.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to partnering with the city to ensure that the goals of the initiative are met.

Sincerely

Salvador Sanabria
Executive Director

