

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, the U.S. Attorney General issued a memorandum ("Zero Tolerance") which resulted in an increase in the number of minor children whom the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) separated from their parents after attempting to cross the border without legal documents; and

WHEREAS, DHS is responsible for the apprehension and transfer of families and children at the border, to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) who coordinates their the placement through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR); and

WHEREAS, the majority of unaccompanied children are cared for through a network of state-licensed ORR-funded care providers which are responsible for providing a continuum of care for children, including foster care, group homes, shelter, and residential treatment centers; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration and DHS Officials have released inconsistent data relative to the transfer, treatment, and release of unaccompanied children, some of whom are reportedly unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2019, Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 163 to require group homes and foster family agencies that house unaccompanied undocumented minors, under the custody of ORR, to report the number of unaccompanied undocumented minors, length of placement, and arrange for those minors to meet with a specified organization providing legal services; and


WHEREAS, AB 163 would also require county child welfare representatives to meet with each unaccompanied undocumented minor, offer mental health services, and inspect the agencies at least quarterly to ensure compliance with the law; and

WHEREAS, according to the ORR, nearly 2,000 unaccompanied minors were released in 2018 in Los Angeles County and many more remain detained; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles supports legislation to improve the living conditions of unaccompanied children housed in foster care and other agencies funded by ORR;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 163 which would require group homes and foster family agencies that house unaccompanied undocumented minors, under the custody of ORR, to report the number of unaccompanied undocumented minors, their length of placement, and arrange for those minors to meet with a specified organization providing legal and mental health services.

PRESENTED BY

  
GILBERT A. CEDILLO  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY



APR 10 2019



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