



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Legislators press governor to act on border crisis; federal plan not legal

BATON ROUGE – A group of Louisiana legislators question the legality of federal screening facilities in Honduras set up to identify and transport “qualified” illegal aliens to the United States.

Led by Rep. Valarie Hodges (R-Denham Springs), the group of state legislators has delivered a letter to Governor Bobby Jindal, urging him “to use all constitutional powers” granted to him to “serve and protect the citizens of Louisiana.”

“We already know the border agents and facilities near the our border with Mexico are overwhelmed, so the federal government is, in secret, transporting illegal aliens to other states,” Hodges said, “The trouble is we also know these are not all innocent children and teenagers seeking a better life. The thousands coming across the border have been infiltrated by gang members, drug dealers, and human traffickers. Rape, murder, drug dealing and gang recruitment have already been revealed.”

Hodges pointed out that innocent children are also being used as pawns. Their parents or other adults often cross into the U.S. separately and appear at the federal holding facilities to claim their children, then are released into whatever state they are in.

“And even among the innocent children, we’ve now learned their health status is frequently unknown, and many have already been diagnosed with dangerous, infectious disease,” Hodges said. “The humane and the right thing to do is demand that the federal government announce and carry out an open plan to immediately separate criminals from innocents; incarcerate and deport the criminals; treat the health needs of the innocents, then demand the leaders of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador live up to their

responsibility to care for their own children; come get them, transport them safely home, re-unite them with their families, and protect them.”

Hodges said the President’s plan to create screening facilities in Honduras to identify so-called “qualified” individuals and transport them directly to the United States completely bypasses all existing immigration law and procedure.

The legislators’ letter to the governor urges him to demand full prior notification of transportation to or housing in Louisiana as well as take action to ensure any illegals transported to federal facilities are not allowed to leave those facilities to enter Louisiana.

It also urges the governor to demand a complete report of health status of all illegals transported to Louisiana as well as demand an “acceptable plan” for short-term housing, quarantine and humane and quick return to their home countries at their expense.

The legislators also want the governor to urge the President to insist the home countries take responsibility and pick up the cost.

“No one, not even the President, is telling the home countries to live up to their moral, ethical and legal responsibility to care for their children.” Hodges said, “The people of the United States are the most compassionate people on the planet and we care for the welfare of the poor and the needy everywhere. We also, however, believe in the rule of law, and it is simply not compassionate to ignore our own immigration laws. It is not compassionate to push illegal aliens to the front of the immigration line while leaving those who play by the rules and follow the law at the back of the line with practically no hope of entry into this great country.”

The letter is joined by 14 other legislators, including Rep. Lance Harris (R-Alexandria), chairman of the Republican delegation.

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