



## Script 1: Letter to Congressional Representatives

Congresswoman or Congressman or Representative,

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I reside in City/State \_\_\_\_\_. I am writing today because I am deeply concerned about the physical and mental health and safety of child migrants in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), especially with the added dangers of the COVID pandemic. As you know, there are children as young as babies and toddlers being held in detention facilities that the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) reports “do not meet the basic standards for the care of children.” Human rights experts and physicians, Dr. Crosby and Dr. Ramanathan, in an October 15, 2020, op-ed in the Houston Chronicle call the treatment of child migrants “[systematic abuse and torture](#),” and call for an immediate Congressional investigation. I stand with them and other medical, legal and human rights experts asking for the immediate release of the hundreds of children that remain in detention. I respectfully ask that you take action today.

As you know, DHS/CBP facilities and for-profit facilities overseen by DHS/CPB, have shown a clear disregard for human life that has resulted in death of [19 adult migrants](#) and [six children](#), the first such deaths in a decade. As we currently face the COVID 19 pandemic, the situation has become exponentially more dangerous with documented cases of widespread infection in facilities that do not allow for basic health precautions. Additionally, with the latest [DHS practice](#) of housing unaccompanied migrant children in hotels where there is no oversight or accountability for their care, not only are we endangering the health of these children, but blocking access to established protections for asylum seekers. These extreme policies are inhumane and un-American, harming and traumatizing children. I ask you to make this issue a priority before more children suffer needlessly or lose their lives seeking the American dream.

With gratitude,

Your name

Address

City, State, Zip