

Statement of Concern and Offer to Help Inform the Protection and Care of Immigrant Children in Federal Custody

The following professional societies, organizations and individuals are deeply concerned by the reports of child abuse and neglect affecting immigrant children and youth in the custody of U.S. authorities and contractors. Thus, we urge the U.S. Congress and other national leaders to develop legislation that is research-informed, evidence-based, and that follows existing best practices standards for children and youth on matters including medical and mental health care, circumstances and length of detention, hygiene, nutrition, exercise, and sleeping accommodations, family and social supports, family separation, group care, religious integrity, privacy, legal representation, and advocacy. We stand ready and willing to help national leaders develop such legislation by providing our expertise and knowledge to support this effort on a bipartisan basis.