

July 14, 2014

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We write to thank you for your leadership in protecting the many provisions included in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA) that protect unaccompanied children, many of which originated in the “Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005,” which you championed. We are particularly appreciative that you and Senators Heitkamp, Gillibrand and Hirono sent a letter to President Obama expressing opposition to “any proposal that restricts legal and humanitarian protections for unaccompanied children from non-contiguous countries and urge caution in granting the Department of Homeland Security the authority to alter procedures designed to protect these children from trafficking and future violence.”

We look forward to your continued leadership in resisting any efforts to roll back the fundamental protections for children in the TVPRA, especially any attempt to rapidly deport children, without a meaningful hearing, who may be victims of trafficking, sexual assault, or persecution. Under your leadership, Congress unanimously passed the TVPRA, which continued a long history of establishing procedures that fairly and safely repatriate unaccompanied children to their home countries. It is our belief that American values compel us to continue to champion those provisions. We thank you for your continued support and leadership on this critical issue.

If there is any way our organizations can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
U.S. Jesuit Conference
Women's Refugee Commission