



# VACIR Toolkit to Oppose ORR Proposed Child Detention Center in NOVA

## BACKGROUND HIGHLIGHTS:

- In early August 2019, the General Services Administration [posted a notice](#) seeking to lease space in Northern Virginia for the Office of Refugee Resettlement to detain “approximately 440 unaccompanied [migrant] children.” The notice specified Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and the incorporated cities and towns of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Herndon, Vienna, or Manassas.
- Since the notice was posted, the mayor of Alexandria, as well as the Board of Supervisor chairs of Arlington, Loudon, Fairfax, and Prince William counties have expressed opposition or negative comments on the plan.

**GOAL:** Ensure accountability in the statements of opposition by local officials and gain new voices of opposition to this proposal from other elected officials in the specified regions of Virginia.

## LETTER AND/OR PHONE CALL TEMPLATES FOR VIRGINIA ELECTED OFFICIALS

### 1. If they already oppose...

“Dear [official/s],

I, [name], resident of [location], would like to express my opposition to the solicitation filed on August 2019 by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for a space in Northern Virginia to cage over 400 unaccompanied children. Thank you for expressing your opposition. It is important to promote and honor human rights and values of dignity in this time of oppressive and violent anti-immigrant practices.

I encourage you to continue expressing your opposition and to hold on to your values if ORR were to submit a proposal to the local government. Immigrant residents of [location] and their allies are counting on you to ensure that immigrant children, or really any immigrant, is able to have freedom of access to their families and their community resources, without entering into contracts that generate fear and siphon money from the local community.”



2. If they expressed willingness to review the proposal...

"Dear [official/s],

I, [name], resident of [location], would like to express my opposition to the solicitation filed on August 2019 by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for a space in Northern Virginia to cage over 400 unaccompanied children. I urge you to oppose this proposal in its entirety and join other Northern Virginia officials who have expressed opposition to the proposal and have taken the side of keeping families together and honoring human rights.

The proposed detention center will generate fear and siphon money from the local community. Even with the promises of jobs for locals and 'humane' services for those detained, you must not overlook the rampant abuses across all federal agencies that detain immigrants. You are accountable to immigrant residents of [location] and their allies, and they are counting on you to reject this proposal and honor the rights of immigrant families and their children."

3. If they haven't made a statement yet...

"Dear [official/s],

I, [name], resident of [location], would like to express my opposition to the solicitation filed on August 2019 by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for a space in Northern Virginia to cage over 400 unaccompanied children. I urge you to make a statement opposing this proposal in its entirety and join other Northern Virginia officials who have expressed opposition to the proposal and have taken the side of keeping families together and honoring human rights.

The proposed detention center will generate fear and siphon money from the local community. Even with the promises of jobs for locals and 'humane' services for those detained, you must not overlook the rampant abuses across all federal agencies that detain immigrants. You are accountable to immigrant residents of [location] and their allies, and they are counting on you to reject this proposal and honor the rights of immigrant families and their children."

[TRACKER OF NOVA PUBLIC OFFICIAL STANCES ON THE PROPOSAL](#)