

*Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California*

Resolution No:

Welcoming Unaccompanied Minors to Monterey County, and)
Urging They Be Protected and That Comprehensive Wrap-)
Around Services Be Provided to Them)

WHEREAS, there are currently thousands of unaccompanied minors from Central America and Mexico entering the United States seeking refugee or asylum status. Last month, Border Patrol agents took custody of 18,890 unaccompanied children at the southern border and Customs and Border Protection, which oversees the Border Patrol, is required to transfer unaccompanied children in their custody to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within 72 hours; and,

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are currently considering using the U.S. Army National Guard Base, Camp Roberts, that is located in both Monterey County and San Luis Obispo County, to house and provide unification services for potentially 2,000 unaccompanied minors with relatives and friends in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program is managed by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), an operational division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Congress transferred the care and custody of these minors to ORR from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to move away from the adult detention model; and,

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2020, approximately 72% of all children referred were over 14 years of age, and 68% were boys. Countries of origin of youth in this program were approximately as follows: Guatemala (46%), El Salvador (14%), Honduras (25%), and other (8%); and,

WHEREAS, as soon as children enter ORR care, they are put in contact with their parents, guardians or relatives, if known, and the process of finding a suitable sponsor begins. The vast majority of sponsors are a parent or a close family relative living in the United States. While ORR programs are looking for sponsors, children are provided age-appropriate care and wrap-around services in one of the approximately 200 state-licensed facilities and programs in 22 states funded by ORR. As a part of the unification process, potential sponsors must undergo a criminal public records checks and in most cases, a sex offender registry check; and,

WHEREAS, all ORR-funded state-licensed and influx care facility services are required to include classroom education, mental and medical health services, case management, recreation

and unification services that facilitate safe and timely release to family members or other sponsors who can care for them; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows the presence of legal counsel influences the outcome of immigrations cases for unaccompanied minors. In 2014, 12% of unaccompanied minors represented by an attorney were deported, compared to a more than 80% deportation rate for those without legal representation; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey as follows:

1. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all its residents thereof, hereby welcomes thousands of unaccompanied minors to Monterey County and commits to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to temporarily house them here.

2. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors urges President Biden and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to protect these unaccompanied minors, provide them full wrap-around services, keep them at Camp Roberts in humane conditions and adequate facilities for no longer than two weeks to unify them with family and friend sponsors, and provide them legal representation for their pending immigration court cases.

3. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors further urges President Biden and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide regular information and data on the number of unaccompanied minors being held at Camp Roberts, the length of time they are being held there, what services are being provided to them, reports of abuse, the contractors engaging within this site, and any plans to prolong the use of the facility.

4. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors further urges President Biden and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to permit Monterey County officials and trusted community-based organizations to conduct site visits.

5. The Clerk of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President Joe Biden, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senators Diane Feinstein and Alex Padilla, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Governor Gavin Newsom, and to our Monterey Bay region state legislators.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of April 2021, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book___ for the meeting on _____.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

By _____, Deputy