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**CLARKE LEADS NEW YORK DELEGATION LETTER TO TRUMP
ADMINISTRATION DEMANDING INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD
DETENTION CENTERS AND PRIVATE PRISON CONTRACTORS**

WASHINGTON, DC – Following the implementation of President Trump’s executive order to alleviate the separation of migrant children from their families at our southern border, New York Representatives Yvette D. Clarke, Nydia M. Velázquez, José E. Serrano, Gregory W. Meeks, Hakeem Jeffries, and Grace Meng sent a letter to the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice.

While the Trump Administration recently issued Executive Order 13841 to purportedly end its inhumane child separation policy, this new executive order means that private prison contractors will still be profiting off of the suffering of immigrant children. This creates perverse incentives for private firms to engage in practices that will leave children worse off.

In a letter sent today, Clarke and the other members said, in part:

“This executive order was issued following the Administration’s decision to separate migrant children from their families and justified as a way of ending an inhumane policy that was roundly rejected by the American people. Unfortunately, Executive Order 13841 was not based on compassion for migrant children fleeing violence, but instead defeats our mission as a nation of immigrants. As a result of this executive order, migrant children will now potentially be detained with their families in private prison facilities indefinitely, inflicting unnecessary emotional pain and suffering against their entire family units in contradiction to our most basic human values.”

“Yet, this executive order is not self-executing. Instead, it relies on your Agencies and the support of a myriad collection of private prison contractors who stand to benefit financially off the perpetual suffering of migrant children. According to a June 21, 2018 article from CBS News, at least five federal contractors will receive hundreds of millions

of dollars to help implement this Administration's unethical detention and removal policies. In contrast, corporations such as American Airlines have bravely asked your Administration to refrain from using their services to transport children thousands of miles away from their parents."

The Members pointed to the perverse financial incentives reaped by profiting from the suffering of others as need for strong congressional oversight in the matter.

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