

Dec 5, 2023

Contact Kylie Mason

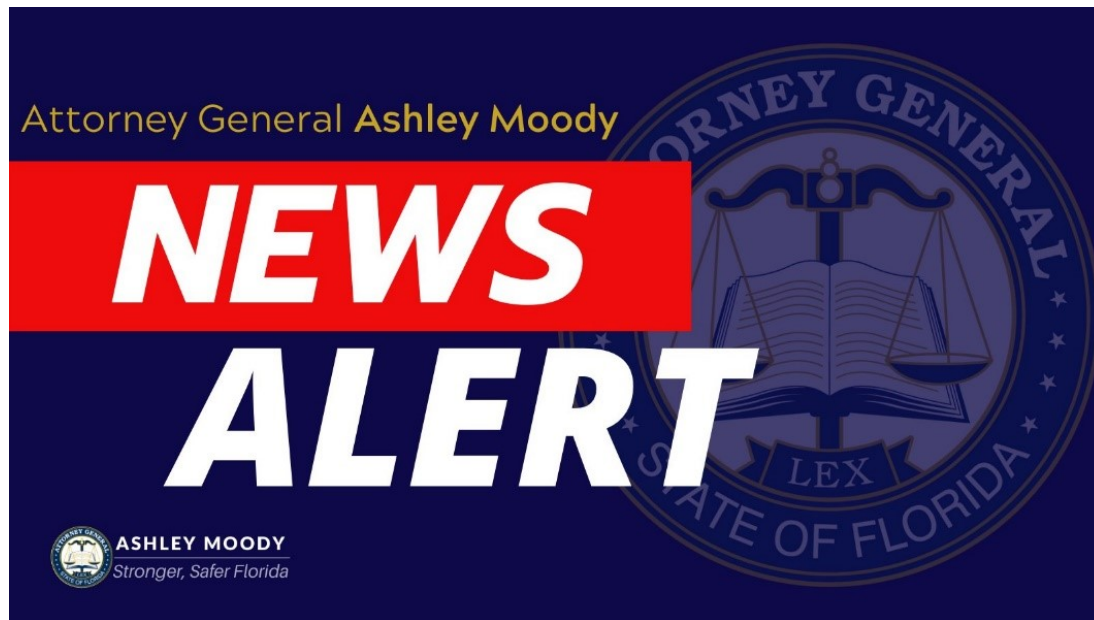
Phone (850) 245-0150



OFFICE OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL
ASHLEY MOODY
— Stronger, Safer Florida —

Attorney General Ashley Moody News Release

Attorney General Moody Fights Back Against Biden’s Push to Lax Vetting of the Sponsors of Unaccompanied Alien Children



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is fighting back against the Biden administration’s push to lax vetting requirements of sponsors of unaccompanied alien children. Earlier this year, the 21st Florida Statewide Grand Jury released findings that show the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement and the Biden administration facilitated the trafficking of thousands of inadmissible immigrant children. ORR is now requesting public comment on a rule change to make the process for vetting sponsors even MORE lenient. The grand jury, through several presentments, detailed how ORR previously lost track of more than 20,000 UACs, placing children with unvetted sponsors without background checks and exposed the minors to human trafficking and abuse.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “It is an absolute travesty that thousands of children are suffering due to the Biden administration’s terrible immigration policies—both that mass numbers of inadmissible immigrants are incentivized to enter the country illegally and that many of these unaccompanied alien children are subject to sexual abuse, human trafficking and other terrors at the hands of drug cartels. And now, the administration is even seeking to WEAKEN their vetting policies for UAC sponsors. With the new discoveries by the statewide grand jury, we are fighting back and demanding ORR strengthen, not weaken, the vetting process for sponsors entrusted to care for these children.”

In comments sent to ORR, Attorney General Moody details how the state of Florida has been investigating the federal government's systematic mistreatment of alien children for the last year and a half.

The letter states: "During the course of that investigation, which was led by my office through Florida's Statewide Prosecutor, the grand jury issued five presentments. As the third presentment explains, '[i]f any resident of Florida exposed U.S.-born children' to the same conditions that ORR exposes alien children to, 'they would be justifiably arrested for child neglect or worse.' This is because alien children supposedly in the care of ORR are being recruited into gangs, abused, and even sold into sex slavery. Meanwhile, as ORR turns a blind eye to these horrors, Mexican drug cartels are funding multi-billion dollar criminal operations with funds made smuggling more and more unaccompanied aliens into the United States."

The letter highlights that the grand jury asked Attorney General Moody to file its presentments as public comment on the proposed measure.

The grand jury's ongoing investigation [uncovered](#) that the federal government lost track of tens of thousands of children, background checks were not being conducted on the minors' sponsors and the children being exposed to human trafficking and abuse.

The grand jury's fourth [presentment](#) found that the "only mandatory requirement [for UAC sponsors] is completion and submission of the sponsorship application." Additionally, "no other vetting measure is mandated. No finding during the vetting process is automatically disqualifying, a truly disturbing commentary on ORR priorities."

To read Attorney General Moody's comment on ORR rulemaking, click [here](#).

To view Appendix A of the comments, click [here](#).

To view Appendix B of the comments, click [here](#).

To view Appendix C of the comments, click [here](#).

###