

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 14, 2019

Hon. Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Gary Peters
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Colleagues:

We write to respectfully request that you promptly schedule a hearing in your respective committees on the deaths of two Guatemalan children after they were detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) along with their fathers after crossing the border.

The deaths of 8-year-old Felipe Alonzo-Gomez and Jakelin Caal Maquin raise serious concerns and questions that must be addressed. There are also reports of another migrant girl who nearly died while in CBP custody in November after going into cardiac arrest. The girl was taken to a hospital in El Paso, Texas where she was resuscitated.¹ Details of the case are scarce, but CBP confirmed the near death incident occurred in the same CBP sector where Jaeklin Caal Maquin was apprehended.

On December 19, 2018, we sent you a request for a hearing following the death of Jakelin Caal Maquin's, but with tragedy after tragedy occurring in CBP custody, we believe the time for a hearing is imminent. We cannot wait for another death to occur. We also sent letters to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and CBP on December 14 and 28 requesting answers surrounding these incidents, but have not received responses.

These tragedies and the circumstances that led to them show the urgent need for effective Congressional oversight. We believe there is an immediate need to hold a hearing calling the DHS, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and CBP leadership to provide a full accounting surrounding these tragedies and their plans to safeguard against future hardships.

¹ Another Migrant Girl Nearly Died After She Was Detained in New Mexico by the Border Patrol, *BuzzFeed News*, <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/johnstanton/another-migrant-girl-nearly-died-after-she-was-detained-in>

Notably, since Judiciary Committee Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein, have both expressed interest in scheduling a hearing on the children's passing, we believe a hearing should be scheduled in the Judiciary committee without haste.²

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

² Sen. Graham: We'll Hold Hearings on Child Migrant Deaths, NBC-2.com, <https://www.nbc-2.com/story/39711694/sen-graham-well-hold-hearings-on-child-migrant-deaths>