



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

October 26, 2017

The Acting Secretary Elaine Duke
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Complex
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

I write to express my absolute shock about press reports that Border Patrol agents delayed the crossing of an ambulance transporting a ten year old child to an emergency gallbladder surgery. In medical emergencies, every moment counts and it is truly inhumane to know that this situation involved a ten year old child with cerebral palsy. I demand to know whether the allegations in the press accounts are accurate and request a briefing on the matter immediately.

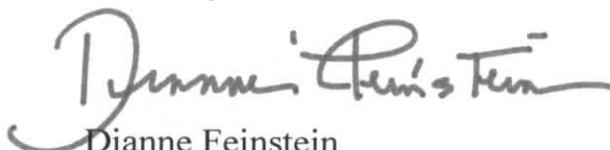
I am further outraged that Border Patrol agents felt it was a sufficient use of resources to follow the ambulance and wait outside the child's hospital room in order to put her into deportation proceedings. As I understand from press accounts, in addition to delaying the ambulance, Border Patrol agents attempted to force family members to sign deportation papers on behalf of the ten year old. Furthermore, I understand that Border Patrol then took the child into custody and has refused to return her to her family, possibly affecting the parents' constitutional rights to their child.

What has this country come to? Is the desire to deport all undocumented people so great, that Border Patrol agents would endanger the life of a child with cerebral palsy simply to put her into deportation proceedings? In all of my years in public service, I have never read a set of more morally reprehensible facts.

I expect that you will take immediate action to ensure that life-saving measures are always prioritized, especially in cases of children. I find it appalling that immigration enforcement activities have become so reckless, I am required to write this letter.

I will be following this issue closely and look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator

DF:jp