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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

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June 3, 2026

Sonya Thompson
President and Chief Executive Officer
2330 N. Loop 1604 W, Ste. 300
San Antonio, Texas 78248-4555

Ms. Thompson,

I am concerned about public accounts of Compass Connections' role in the care of unaccompanied children, including your organization's involvement in a planned short-term holding facility at the Alexandria International Airport in Alexandria, Louisiana.¹

Reports indicate that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) are preparing to use a former military barracks at the Alexandria International Airport as a short-term federal holding facility for families and unaccompanied children. Compass Connections and the LaSalle Family Foundation have been reported to be the entities expected to operate the facility.² Project officials told The Guardian in March 2026 that the lease for the Alexandria site was being finalized and the facility could be operational within 60 to 90 days,³ raising the prospect that children may begin being held at the site as early as June 2026.

I do not believe that the design, implementation, and operation of this Alexandria facility will properly serve the best interests of children in ORR's care. You personally characterized the Alexandria site as a "first-of-its-kind" facility providing "wrap-around services" for individuals in their "final days in the U.S.,"⁴ a characterization that, on its face, describes operational support for removal rather than the child-welfare mission for which ORR has historically funded Compass Connections. Furthermore, separate accounts have documented elevated levels of per-

¹ Oliver Laughland, *Trump officials set to expand migrant family detention at Louisiana airport*, THE GUARDIAN (March 14, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/mar/14/trump-migrant-detention-louisiana>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) "forever chemicals" in drinking water at other detention facilities in the same area and network this Alexandria site is expected to join, including facilities that have housed children.⁵ Former military airfields are among the most PFAS-contaminated sites in the country, raising serious questions about the environmental and health suitability of such a site for children.

Through cooperative agreements with ORR, Compass Connections has long been one of the nation's largest providers of care to children in the Unaccompanied Children Program. Your organization has received more than \$38 million in federal funding under one ORR cooperative agreement in fiscal year 2026 alone, and more than \$1.6 billion in federal funding for unaccompanied children's care in the last three years.⁶ The federal government has continued to expand its partnership with Compass Connections with a five-year, \$35 million HHS grant to operate the National Human Trafficking Hotline.⁷ Compass Connections' simultaneous role at the Alexandria facility raises questions about how the organization is reconciling its anti-trafficking and child-welfare missions with operational involvement in a federal deportation pipeline.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA), the Foundational Rule at 45 C.F.R. Part 410, and ORR's own Policy Guide establish a child-welfare framework under which ORR-funded providers are responsible for acting in the best interest of children in their care and for facilitating safe and timely release to vetted sponsors. Safe and timely release does not mean holding a 15-year-old in a Compass Connections shelter in San Antonio since November 2025.⁸

These reports are at odds with your mission to meet the needs of vulnerable children and their caregivers: an operational role in a short-term holding facility tied to mass deportation, and an apparent inability to facilitate the release of a child whose sponsor paperwork was complete. However, I do not draw conclusions from press reporting alone, and I want your perspective before reaching any.

The Senate Finance Committee, of which I am the Ranking Member, has jurisdiction over the Unaccompanied Children Program and the federal funding that supports it. The Committee has a responsibility to understand the framework under which ORR-funded providers entrusted with the day-to-day care and custody of children operate, and how that framework is functioning in practice. I therefore request a written response to the questions below, and a call with you to discuss the Alexandria facility, no later than **June 18, 2026**.

⁵ Tom Perkins, *ICE planning facility for children and families on Pfas-contaminated site*, THE GUARDIAN (Apr. 25, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/apr/25/pfas-chemicals-ice-family-detention>.

⁶ *Compass Connections, Inc.*, USASPENDING.GOV, <https://www.usaspending.gov/search/?hash=3991556a8390d582d645843ce31e25ba> (last visited May 12, 2026).

⁷ Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Servs. Admin. for Children & Families, *HHS Invests \$35 Million to Bolster National Human Trafficking Hotline and Protect Survivors* (Sept. 22, 2025), <https://acf.gov/media/press/2025/hhs-invests-35-million-human-trafficking>.

⁸ Yami Virgin, Paul Sanchez, & Natalie Medina, *ICE teen detained in San Pedro Ave raid still in custody in South Side children's shelter*, NEWS4 SAN ANTONIO (March 31, 2026), <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/ice-teen-detained-in-san-pedro-ave-raid-still-in-custody-in-south-side-childrens-shelter>.

For your awareness, my office is also corresponding with HHS leadership regarding ORR's oversight of unaccompanied children. This letter seeks information about your organization's operational role specifically, and your candor is appreciated and expected.

Alexandria, Louisiana Facility

1. What is Compass Connections' role in the operation or planned operation of a facility at the Alexandria International Airport?
 - a. Please describe the nature of involvement, the contractual or grant relationship under which it operates, the federal agency or agencies that are party to that relationship, the anticipated capacity of the facility, and the projected operational start date.
 - b. Please also define, as Compass Connections uses the phrases, what is meant by "first-of-its-kind" facility and "wrap-around services" in the context of the Alexandria site: what services does the organization plan to provide, to whom, and on what legal authority.
 - c. Please explain how this operational role is consistent with Compass Connections' obligations as an ORR-funded provider of child-welfare services.
2. Please identify the populations Compass Connections expects to care for at the facility, and the basis on which they will be referred to or placed in the facility. Identify whether children referred to the Alexandria facility will be in ORR care or custody at the time of placement, and the statutory or regulatory authority for any such placement.
3. Please describe the relationship between Compass Connections and the LaSalle Family Foundation in connection with the Alexandria facility, including any joint venture, subcontract, partnership, or other agreement between the two organizations. Please produce copies of any such agreements, appropriately redacted for genuinely proprietary information.
4. Please describe the safeguards Compass Connections has put in place, or intends to put in place, at the Alexandria facility to ensure children receive the protections to which they are entitled under the TVPRA, the Foundational Rule, and the ORR Policy Guide, including access to legal counsel, the ability to contact family members and sponsors, age-appropriate care, mental health services, and protection from coerced waivers of statutory rights.
5. What environmental, health, and safety assessments have been conducted for the Alexandria site? Provide such documentation. What measures will Compass Connections take to protect children at the site from environmental contaminants, including PFAS in drinking water, soil, and air? Identify any consultations with federal or state environmental health authorities concerning the suitability of the site for housing children.

Existing ORR Cooperative Agreements and Operational Assessments

6. Please provide a complete list of all current ORR cooperative agreements, grants, and contracts under which Compass Connections operates as a care provider for unaccompanied children, including the start and end dates of each, the total federal

funding under each, and the number of children currently in Compass Connections' care under each agreement.

7. Please describe Compass Connections' process for receiving referrals of unaccompanied children from ORR, including which ORR component(s) make referral decisions, what criteria govern those decisions, and what role, if any, Compass Connections plays in advocating for or against particular placements. Identify whether referral patterns to Compass Connections shelters have changed since January 20, 2025, and if so, how.
8. Was Compass Connections requested by ORR to be involved in the Alexandria facility? If so, when, and by whom, and what was the substance of that request? Please provide copies of any written communications between Compass Connections and ORR, or any other federal entity, concerning the Alexandria facility, including any internal Compass Connections approvals or governance decisions about whether to accept the role.
9. Has Compass Connections assessed its involvement in the Alexandria facility against the terms of its existing ORR cooperative agreements, the Foundational Rule, and the ORR Policy Guide? If so, please describe the assessment and its conclusions. If no such assessment has been conducted, please explain why.

Release of Children to Sponsors

10. Across all Compass Connections-operated shelters, what is the average length of care for children in Compass Connections custody who were discharged between January 20, 2025 and the present? Please disaggregate by sponsor category.
11. In how many cases since January 20, 2025, has Compass Connections been informed by a sponsor or sponsor's family that a sponsor was detained by immigration enforcement during the sponsor vetting process? What protocols, if any, does Compass Connections follow when it learns of such a detention? Has Compass Connections shared any sponsor or child case data directly with DHS or any DHS component? If so, identify the data shared, the recipient, the date, and the legal or contractual authority for the sharing, including whether the sharing was directed or requested by ORR. Please provide copies of all such communications.
12. With respect to the 15-year-old in your care described above, without disclosing any personally identifying information about the child or family, please describe the facts of the case from Compass Connections' perspective, including the date of placement, the status of the sponsor application, the cause of any delay in release, and the current status of the case. Please also explain the legal and policy basis on which Compass Connections referred press inquiries about its own operational role to HHS rather than responding directly.

Governance and Federal Funding

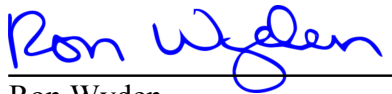
13. Please identify the current members of Compass Connections' board of directors and senior leadership, and indicate whether any have business, contractual, or financial relationships with the LaSalle Family Foundation, any U.S. Department of Homeland Security component, or any contractor operating immigration detention or removal facilities.

14. Please identify all federal funding Compass Connections has received to date by source, purpose, and amount, including any funding from DHS, the U.S. Department of Justice, or any other federal entity.

Any redactions made by Compass Connections to the documents requested above should be accompanied by a privilege log identifying the document, the redacted material's category, and the basis for redaction. Blanket invocations will not be accepted.

Compass Connections has been a substantial federal partner in the care of unaccompanied children, which is why the reporting described in this letter raises serious concerns. An organization that seeks to protect vulnerable children and survivors of trafficking cannot simultaneously care for them and help this administration deport them. I appreciate your direct engagement on these questions.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden

United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance