



RICKY ARRIOLA
COMMISSIONER

June 19, 2018

Gary G. Palmer
Comprehensive Health Services
8810 Astronaut Blvd
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Dear Mr. Palmer,

I recently learned that your firm, Comprehensive Health Services, is running the detention center in Homestead where a reported 1,000 migrant children are in captivity.

<http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/video-miami-child-migrant-compound-denies-nelson-wasserman-schultz-entry-10454112>

I also read that your staff refused entry on to the property by our US Florida Senator and Congresswoman. As an entity that relies on government contracts for much of its \$100 million in revenues, I believe this will prove to be a horrible mistake for your company.

Next week I am sponsoring legislation to ban your company and its subsidiaries from doing business in the City of Miami Beach so long as you continue to refuse the timely inspection of your facilities by our government representatives or their designees to ensure that these children are living in safe conditions; receiving proper medical care; being well fed and have access to emotional support services; and have adequate recreational and educational time.

Recent images of similar facilities across the nation have sparked horror throughout our society and have revealed that these facilities are little more than prisons — where children are locked in cages for up to 22 hours a day. While I have no idea what your facilities are like, I assume that your refusal to allow Senator Nelson and Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz to inspect the facilities indicates that you have something to hide.

The public needs the comfort of knowing that these children are receiving top-notch care. Until proven otherwise by our elected representatives, I will assume that your company is hiding something. I hope that I am wrong and that your facilities are first class.

I am free to speak with you at your convenience - I can be reached at 305 673 7107 or via email at rickyarriola@miamibeachfl.gov.

I look forward to your response and would also welcome a tour of your facilities. Homestead is not far from my office.

Sincerely,

J. Ricky Arriola
Miami Beach City Commissioner

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