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**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

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RULES, RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS

August 1, 2014

The Honorable Mike Beebe
Governor - State of Arkansas
State Capitol Room 250
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Governor Beebe:

I am writing concerning reports the Federal government has begun housing illegal immigrants in states across the country, often times without the knowledge or consent of governors or legislatures. This is a concern for many reasons. The situation at our southern border is not only a security crisis, but also a humanitarian and health crisis for both the children who are crossing and for the states receiving them. The stories of what these children have to endure are truly horrifying, and we hope the Federal government will take immediate and decisive action to secure our border and put an end to this crisis. Until then, we believe the citizens of Arkansas should have answers to the following questions:

1. Is the Federal government currently placing illegal immigrant refugees in the State of Arkansas?
2. If the answer to the above is yes, how many have been re-located to our state to date and where are they being housed?
3. What steps are being taken by the state to secure these locations in terms of both safety and public health.
4. What contact has our state had with the Federal government regarding the housing of illegal immigrants?

On behalf of the people of Arkansas, thank you taking time to answer these questions and all you do for our state. It is certain I will have additional questions over this very serious and pressing issue. It is likely in the coming weeks, we will be scheduling legislative committee meetings to hold public discussions of the crisis at our southern border and how it is affecting our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bart Hester".

Senator Bart Hester
Chairman, Senate Children and Youth Subcommittee
Vice Chairman, Senate Children and Youth Committee