

EQUITY

FORWARD

June 22, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Eric Hargan
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar and Deputy Secretary Hargan,

I write to you as the Executive Director of Equity Forward, a watchdog group committed to transparency and accountability in our nation's health care system.

We are concerned that Scott Lloyd, the Director of HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the Administration's so-called "[Refugee Czar](#)," is simply not up to the task of managing his office during this time of crisis. As you know, Mr. Lloyd [lacks experience managing or administering](#) any refugee programs. Most concerning, Mr. Lloyd has failed to release a plan to care for the thousands of innocent children who have been separated from their families by the Administration.

Moreover, a scan of ORR's recent statements, news clips and HHS' public calendar indicate that Mr. Lloyd has not appeared in public since April 10th. The manufactured crisis that continues to unfold emerged during this time period where Mr. Lloyd has neither been seen nor heard from.

In the public's interest, we call on you to make Mr. Lloyd's full schedule from his last known appearance on April 10th to today available to the public. It is essential that the public knows how senior officials like Mr. Lloyd are conducting themselves leading up to and during a manufactured crisis like the one the country is experiencing now.

Please note that we understand that there is a formal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process. Unfortunately, our experience is that HHS does not comply with FOIA within the bounds of required legal statutes. For example, Equity Forward filed a FOIA request related to ORR in [December 2017](#). When HHS didn't have the courtesy to even respond, we filed a suit after 50 days. HHS claimed that [it needed 28 years](#) to produce the documents in question, and after more than four months we have yet to receive a single responsive document.

It is our sincere hope that in an effort to be both transparent and accountable to the taxpayers, you comply with the above stated request. If not, we will be compelled to litigate on additional unresponsive FOIAs with your agency in the coming days.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Carter
Executive Director
Equity Forward

CC: Scott Lloyd, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement
Steven Wagner, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families
Maggie Wynne, Counselor for Human Services Policy, Office of the Secretary