

December 11, 2017

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Freedom of Information Officer Mary E. Switzer Building 330 C ST SW, Suite 4004 Washington, DC 20201

Phone: 1-888-747-1861 E-Mail: FOIA@acf.hhs.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

## Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, Equity Forward requests access to and copies of certain correspondence involving the following officials and employees within the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families:

- Scott Lloyd
- Maggie Wynne
- Jonathan White
- Curi Kim
- Judith Haron
- Anna Marie Bena
- Scott Logan
- Tricia Swartz (Associate Deputy, ORR)
- Jallyn Sualog (Director of Children Services)
- James De La Cruz (Houston Field Supervisor)
- Dr. David Teuscher (Region 6 Director)

Specifically, we request access to and copies of all correspondence sent by, sent to, or carbon-copying ("CC") any of these individuals during the months of March, May, September or October 2017, which includes any of the following keywords or phrases:

- "pregnancy"
- "pregnant"
- "ORR director"
- "abortion"
- "ru-486"
- "CPC"

- "ultrasound"
- "rape"
- "nonconsensual"
- "Gestational"
- "judicial bypass"
- "life affirming"
- "unborn child"
- "spiritual counseling"
- "options counseling"
- "WTF"
- "Terminating"
- "terminate"
- "termination"
- "Pregnancy notification"
- "Pregnancy notivations"
- "Scott is"
- "Scott said"
- "from Scott"

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at macarter@equityfwd.org. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at (678) 827-1731.

## **Fee Waiver Request**

Equity Forward requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

In recent months, there has been extensive coverage<sup>2</sup> of policy shifts involving unaccompanied minor immigrants seeking access to reproductive health services. This request seeks to reveal and understand policy decisions made by the Administration for Children and Families and how these policy decisions are being implemented. There is clear public interest in understanding federal policy in this area as evidenced by the significant media<sup>3</sup> coverage<sup>4</sup> the issue has received.

This request is for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Equity Forward does not have a commercial purpose, and the release of the information requested is not in Equity Forward's financial interest. Equity Forward will use the information gathered through this request to

David S. Cohen and Carol Sanger, "The Jane Doe Burden," US News & World Report, 10/30/17

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ruth Marcus, "The Trump administration is holding a teenager hostage over abortion," The Washington Post, 10/23/17

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Jonathan Blitzer, "<u>The Trump Officials Making Abortion An Issue at the U.S.'s Refugee Office</u>," *The New Yorker*, 10/26/17

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Rachel Siegel, "The Trump official who tried to stop a detained immigrant from getting an abortion," The Washington Post, 10/26/17

educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Accordingly, Equity Forward qualifies for a fee waiver.

## Conclusion

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the law. Additionally, if any documents are withheld based on the Department's interpretation of any exemption, I request that you provide an index of all denied documents.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Carter

Executive Director, Equity Forward