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September 9, 2015

The Honorable John White
Superintendent of Education
Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Superintendent White:

Last September, I brought to your attention a very important issue regarding the relocation of unaccompanied alien children (UACs) with sponsors residing in Louisiana. Due to the Obama Administration's relocation of UACs, as of last year Louisiana now plays host to one of the top ten UAC populations in the country. I am interested to know the accompanying costs of UACs in Louisiana. Specifically, I request details regarding the actual impact the relocation of these children has had on the education system in Louisiana by parish in terms of increases to class size, burden on the taxpayer, and if there has been any reduction in educational priorities as a result.

As I am sure you have documented, this massive and sudden influx of children has caused significant challenges for the schools in Louisiana. According to a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, there were 74,000 UACs in the United States, more than 10,000 beyond what was predicted last year, and more than the DHS website currently claims. According to available data, nearly 100 more UACs are currently in Louisiana than what was officially reported during our correspondence last year. While this may not appear to be a drastic change – the reality and impact to the state is indeed a significant dollar difference.

More troubling is the fact that evidence suggests that this year's data will continue to be incorrect. In fact, there already appears to be a 2,000 person discrepancy across the nation for the months reported. As one of the top states to receive UACs and in an effort to better understand the impact and to gain updated statistics, I ask that you please answer the following questions pertaining to Louisiana:

- (1) How many of the UACs who enrolled in the Louisiana education system during the 2014-2015 school year have re-enrolled in the 2015-2016 school year?
- (2) How many new UACs have enrolled in the Louisiana education system for the 2015-2016 school year?
- (3) How many UACs are being processed to be enrolled in the Louisiana education system for the 2015-2016 school year?
- (4) During the 2014-2015 school year, what was the final cost to the Louisiana education system for providing an education to UACs?

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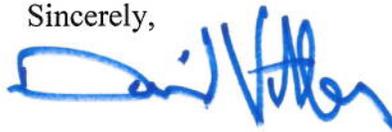
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- (5) For the 2015-2016 school year, what is the average state contribution that will be given to school districts to assist in the cost of educating students?
- (6) During the 2015-2016 school year, what is the total average cost of educating students in each of the five following parishes: East Baton Rouge, Jefferson Parish, Lafayette Parish, Orleans Parish, and St. Tammany Parish?
- (7) For the 2014-2015 school year, did Louisiana schools receive any additional federal funds not mentioned or anticipated in your September 12, 2014, response letter?
- (8) For the 2015-2016 school year, will any Louisiana state or local educational agencies receive additional federal funding in response to the relocation of UACs?
- (9) For the 2015-2016 school year, what do you expect the final cost of educating UACs will be?
- (10) For the 2014-2015 or 2015-2016 school years, did any Louisiana schools request a waiver of the state class size regulations in response to additional UACs?
- (11) Beyond the new hires for the 2014-2015 school year in the Jefferson Parish School System mentioned in your September 12, 2014, response letter, will the addition of UACs necessitate hiring any additional faculty members so as not to heavily impact class sizes?
- (12) What is the total increase in faculty members for the 2014-2016 years?
- (13) What is the additional cost in providing English as a second language classes to UACs? Particularly to students who speak neither English nor Spanish?
- (14) Over the last two years, what educational priorities have shifted in an effort to fund the education of UACs?
- (15) Have any educational priorities or activities been reduced or cancelled due to previously unexpected costs to the Louisiana education system for providing services to UACs? If so, which priorities or activities have been reduced or canceled?

Thank you for your time and consideration in answering these questions. I look forward to receiving your responses.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
United States Senate