



Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

July 18, 2018

Dear Dr. Christ:

Published news reports quote MVM as admitting to the use of a two Phoenix office buildings to shelter overnight the immigrant children that MVM is contracted to transport:

<https://www.revealnews.org/blog/exclusive-immigrant-kids-held-in-second-phoenix-office-seen-bathing-in-sinks/>

Evidence indicates that the office buildings being used by MVM to house immigrant children lack the facilities necessary to provide basic safety features and necessities such as showers, kitchen or yard. A person identified in the article is quoted as saying he witnessed children bathing in their underwear in sinks. Numerous other safety checks from law enforcement are also extremely troubling.

Under A.R.S. § 36-88, the Arizona Department of Health Services is charged with the licensing of child care facilities. To our knowledge MVM does not hold a license to operate any child care facilities in Arizona. We hereby submit this letter as our complaint asking for an investigation of MVM's pattern and practice of using inadequate and unlicensed facilities as de facto child care facilities in our state. We would like to request ADHS categorize this complaint as a Level 1 and immediately investigate to determine whether MVM is currently using other locations in Arizona to house children or has plans to do so in the future. Such an investigation is necessary to determine whether MVM is continuing to disregard our state licensing laws and to protect the welfare of any children they are or may in the future shelter in facilities that plainly fall below the standards we would demand of any facility housing children overnight.

In addition, we request your review of whether sanctions against MVM are warranted due to the company's admitted use of the Osborn and 20th Street office space as unlicensed child care facilities.

We believe ADHS has the authority under our current statutes to investigate MVM and enforce current licensure requirements. We are encouraged by ADHS's announcement that it will be investigating the 20th Street office.

As elected officials we are tasked with ensuring the safety and protection of children in our state. Therefore, we also request that you let us know immediately what policy and legal changes you believe are necessary to ensure the oversight and regulation of such facilities. Please explain the statutes and regulations that should be modified.

We thank you and your team for all your work, prompt responses, and attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kelli Butler in black ink.

Rep. Kelli Butler
Legislative District 28

Handwritten signature of Kirsten Engel in black ink.

Rep. Kirsten Engel
Legislative District 10