

TPS Issues Statement on Refugee Children Arriving at Texas Southern Border

The crisis of refugee children arriving at our southern border has continued and appears to be increasing once again, with some areas in Texas experiencing a 14 to 85% increase in unaccompanied minors. They have endured traumatic experiences both prior to and during their perilous journeys which have caused significant harm to their health and long term well-being. Texas Pediatric Society members responding to the crisis continue to report concerns with the detention process as well as unmet mental health needs.

The Texas Pediatric Society urgently calls upon agencies in both the state and federal responses to this crisis to come together now with the charitable organizations assisting these children. This would enable better coordination and collaboration thereby reducing the additional trauma these children are experiencing from prolonged detention. Knowing that every child's life is sacred, we unequivocally state that children should not be subjected to prolonged detention and that they should receive developmentally appropriate daily care, medical care, and mental health care which is compassionate and responsive to their needs.

Jason V. Terk, MD
President, Texas Pediatric Society

Administrative Contact:
Tricia Hall, CAE, CMP
Executive Director, TPS
tricia.hall@txpeds.org