

Option 1

To the Editor:

COVID-19 continues to have devastating impacts. There are currently 607,318 COVID-19 cases here in the U.S. – more than anywhere else in the world.¹ While children are, fortunately, less vulnerable to the virus, they are hugely affected by it in other ways. They must adapt to distance learning and new routines, cope with separation from teachers and caregivers, and even deal with COVID-related illnesses, or deaths, of close relations.

Every day, children are struggling to manage this new normal. However, there are many children who haven't had a 'normal', even before the pandemic.

Some of these children have recently arrived at the southern border.

Due to the March 20 border closure in response to COVID-19, children are summarily turned away or deported without the opportunity to make asylum claims. This is morally reprehensible and illegal – children have the right to seek asylum under U.S. and international law.

This pandemic is a global health crisis where unity and empathy are crucial. It's often crises like these that affect the most vulnerable, particularly children.

Children, no matter their nationality, must be protected.

Join me – and Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) – in contacting your policymakers and the Trump administration, urging them to protect the health and safety of children at the border.

When this pandemic ends, I hope we can look back at our nation's response, proud we didn't let fear end our long-standing commitment to protecting the most vulnerable.

[NAME]

Word Count: 258

Option 2

¹ You can find the most recent numbers, [here](#), to make sure your LTE is up-to-date when you submit!

To the Editor:

While most of our attention is focused on COVID-19's impact on our own families, we mustn't forget its impact on vulnerable children at the U.S. border. There are countless unaccompanied children at the border who have travelled to the U.S. alone, escaping danger and seeking asylum. Imagine your children, students, or young neighbors embarking on such a dangerous journey alone, without support.

This pandemic has taught us many things, and the importance of family, togetherness and human contact is certainly one of them.

These unaccompanied children at the border are suffering alone. They need our collective voice.

Since the March 20 border closure in response to COVID-19, unaccompanied children are being sent back to Mexico or to their countries of origin where they face huge risks, such as violence, trafficking and economic conditions that don't allow for proper health care.

Deporting unaccompanied children in the midst of a global crisis is not only inhumane, but also illegal and contrary to international human rights law and federal laws like the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA).

It's understandable that we, as a country, are afraid during these uncertain and challenging times. But, this fear shouldn't prevent us from following the law and protecting vulnerable children seeking refuge.

We can keep the American public safe and healthy without putting children at risk.

Join me – and Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) – in contacting your policymakers and the Trump administration, urging them to follow U.S. and international law.

Children, no matter where they're from, must be protected.

[NAME]

Word Count: 257

Option 3

To the Editor:

While most of our attention is focused on COVID-19's impact on our own families, we mustn't forget its impact on vulnerable children in U.S. custody. For instance, there are thousands of unaccompanied children in the care and custody of the Office for Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in overcrowded facilities.

We aren't letting our children go to school or to the playground, so why are we allowing children to remain in such crowded facilities?

Unfortunately, yet predictably, there are many cases of unaccompanied children in detention centers who have tested positive for COVID-19.² This puts the lives of every other child there at risk. This is unacceptable, and certainly counter-productive to managing the pandemic.

Join me – and Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) – in contacting your policymakers and the Trump administration, urging ORR to release vulnerable populations, such as children and pregnant women, from detention settings and state-run facilities where the risk of a coronavirus outbreak is high.

We must remind our elected leaders to remain true to America's core values when making decisions during this difficult chapter in our nation's history. While it's understandable to be afraid during these uncertain times, this fear shouldn't prevent us from following the law and protecting vulnerable children seeking refuge.

Children, and all other vulnerable populations, deserve to be protected no matter where they're from.

[NAME]

Word Count: 236

² [Three Unaccompanied Immigrant Children In US Custody Have Tested Positive For The Coronavirus At Least 19 Children at a Chicago Shelter for Immigrant Detainees Have Tested Positive for COVID-19](#)