



The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20006

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
The Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Complex
3801 Nebraska Avenue
Washington, DC 20016

February 25th, 2019

Dear Mr. President and Madam Secretary,

I write to you to offer help.

After learning that a third migrant has died in American custody, on our country's watch, like so many of my fellow Americans, SOMOS physicians are looking to do what they can to ease this crisis. There is a solution that may bring relief: I represent a nonprofit network of over 1,000 Spanish-speaking physicians, many of whom are immigrants themselves and treat New York's diverse immigrant-rich community. Most of the vulnerable refugees fleeing persistent crisis in their home countries are at the border seeking relief, safety and opportunity. My family and I, and the doctors in the network I lead, have done the same. We are confident that treating those at the border in their own language and with a deep connection to their cultures will go a long way towards easing the healthcare crisis.

We are at your disposal. Today, I am offering to deploy, on your approval, 200 doctors from our network, to the border so that we can be on the front lines of a crisis in care.

In our experience, it is critical that those in crisis can easily and effectively communicate with healthcare providers in their own language. These doctors are both general practitioners and expert specialists and are trained in crisis protocols. A cohort of dozens of doctors from SOMOS were deployed to Puerto Rico in the days after Hurricane Maria, and we are at the country's service now.

Mr. President, Madame Secretary: vulnerable, precious lives hang in the balance. We cannot let one more migrant die in our country's care. I hope that we can solve this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Tallaj".

Dr. Ramon Tallaj
Chairman
SOMOS Community Care

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