STATE OF UTAH OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



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August 28, 2020

Donald J. Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20500

RE: H.R.4172, The National Child ID Act

Dear Mr. President,

First, thank you for your steadfast and continued leadership and all you do to keep families safe across America.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your support through any federal agency including the United States Department of Justice to make available funds, whether those currently identified to fight human trafficking or from other sources, to immediately fortify our defenses as parents throughout America against child exploitation, abduction and human trafficking.

Statistics show that more than 800,000 children go missing each year including runaways and those abducted. That is one child gone every 40 seconds. And we are seeing those statistics rise along with child sexual abuse, exploitation and human trafficking. You recently met with our friend and NFL Hall of Fame Player Mike Singletary to discuss a program he and many other Collegiate and NFL Coaches champion called the National Child ID Program. We also support this effort as we fight daily to protect children in our role as state Attorneys General.

The Child ID Program began in 1997 with the American Football Coaches Association in response to findings that parents did not have fingerprints or DNA for their children in the case of an emergency or abduction. Since then, more than 54 million ID Kits have been distributed through stadiums, churches, schools, law enforcement agencies and community events. As a result, this has become the LARGEST child identification effort ever conducted in the world.

The Child ID Kit allows parents to collect specific information by easily recording the physical characteristics, fingerprints and DNA of their child on identification cards that are then kept at

home by the parent or guardian. No outside group collects, monitors or has access to the data unless parents choose to share it during an emergency. If ever needed, the Child ID Kit will give authorities vital information to assist their efforts to locate a missing child.

Currently, Representatives Norcross and Fitzpatrick have introduced the National Child ID Act, H.R.4172. This legislation would enable each state, through their Attorney General, to have the opportunity to request grant funding to purchase kits for their Kindergarten through 6th grade children. Each kit costs \$1.76 per child, an incredibly small amount for the life of child who has been abducted or runaway. The cost for protecting approximately 30 million K-6 students across America is just below \$52 million.

The National Child ID Program has asked Congress for monies to be set aside in the next stimulus package as a grant for the purchase of such kits. And while legislation is ultimately needed, it may well take months or longer until funds are available. In the meantime, Covid-19 has made children more vulnerable to be groomed and exploited by predators. The threat of our kids being victims is more immediate and grave than ever. Every time we receive an amber alert for a missing one-year-old, it illustrates the critical need for this program.

As you have admirably done with other initiatives, so much can be done to support the Child ID Program by your Administration. Your assistance will make a phenomenal difference in the safety of children in every state. It will empower every parent to protect their child(ren) from some of the worst harm imaginable. This will touch the families of approximately 30 million Kindergarten through 6 grade students. Thank you in advance for your efforts to help protect our nation's children.

Sincerely,

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