

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 397

To prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from operating unlicensed temporary emergency shelters for unaccompanied alien children.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from operating unlicensed temporary emergency shelters for unaccompanied alien children.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Shut Down Child Pris-  
5 on Camps Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.**

7 In this Act, the term “temporary emergency shelter”  
8 means an unlicensed care provider facility that provides  
9 temporary emergency shelter and services for unaccom-

1 panied alien children when licensed facilities are near or  
2 at capacity.

3 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION AGAINST TEMPORARY EMERGENCY**  
4 **SHELTERS.**

5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall  
6 not maintain or operate (directly or through a contract)  
7 any temporary emergency shelter, including—

8 (1) the temporary emergency shelter previously  
9 operational in Tornillo, Texas; and

10 (2) the temporary emergency shelter in Home-  
11 stead, Florida.

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