

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.

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

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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