



Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

June 20, 2014

The Honorable Sam Abed
Mayor, City of Escondido
201 N Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mayor Abed:

I am writing to make you aware of my stringent objection to an application submitted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the City of Escondido Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a youth special needs facility at the former Palomar Continuing Care facility located at Avenida del Diablo in Escondido. It is my understanding that the Commission is scheduled to hold a hearing on this application on Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

I am significantly concerned that this facility will be utilized to house individuals that have entered into the United States illegally and were apprehended by federal enforcement agencies, which have been overloaded in recent months with similar apprehensions throughout the Southwest international border. It is important to note that reliable background information is unavailable on most of these individuals regarding medical conditions, possible criminal affiliations, and data on their final destination. If this application is approved, the Planning Commission will be unnecessarily and irresponsibly placing our community at risk by creating a resource in Escondido for the federal government to house individuals for whom we have no assessment of the potential adverse impact they may pose.

Like many, I am concerned with recent reports of the surge of thousands of young children and expectant mothers illegally entering the United States at great risk with the intention of purposely being apprehended and utilizing current policies to delay their deportation or, in some cases, be allowed to stay in our country indefinitely. Unfortunately, this is a direct result of an Administration that places more emphasis on furthering its political agenda rather than upholding the rule of law and enforcing a strong international border. These policies undermine our efforts to keep our border region safe and betray the significant efforts of Border Agents to perform their responsibilities. This situation will undoubtedly continue if local communities do not display a political will to object to these policies and take specific action to deny local resources from being utilized for federal failures.

Mr. Mayor, I know you share my concern with these issues and have consistently demonstrated that the well being of our community is your top priority. It is for this reason that I respectfully request that you work with the Commission to reject this application and force President Obama and his administration to take ownership of a problem they created and work with Congress to determine a more appropriate solution.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter".

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress