



**International Rescue Committee**  
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**Rescue.org**

November 30, 2015

Mr. Chris Traylor  
Executive Commissioner  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
P. O. Box 13247  
Austin, TX 78711  
Sent via email via [Sandra.MedelReyes@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Sandra.MedelReyes@hhsc.state.tx.us)

Dear Mr. Traylor,

Thank you for your letter dated November 25, 2015, which was received by our office on November 30, 2015.

We are committed to working in close cooperation with the highest levels of Texas State leadership, having an open dialogue, and strengthening the consultation processes that are already in place and in which we actively participate.

The IRC has worked in Texas for over 40 years in a constructive partnership with state, local officials, and communities, and we are committed to continuing to do so.

As a demonstration of cooperation with the Texas State Government, we propose to further this discussion in your offices, or alternatively by video conference, at a time of your convenience. The IRC values its long presence in Texas and wishes to maintain its good standing with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

In accordance with our obligations under federal guidelines and its Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of State, the IRC will continue to provide assistance and services to all refugees who have been admitted lawfully to the United States.

We know that refugees receive the highest level of security screening of any group that comes to the United States. Refugee screenings are rigorous and involve many different elements of the US government, from the Department of Homeland Security, to the FBI, to the Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies.

We look forward to continuing this discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Sime', written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Sime  
Senior Vice President  
International Rescue Committee  
cc: Cecile Young, Texas State Refugee Coordinator