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## Peter Pan Refugees Urge Florida Lawmakers to Vote Against SB 1808

*State Legislatures Prioritized Hurting Immigrants and Refugees While Thousands Can't Afford Housing Costs*

**(FLORIDA)** – This week, the Senate Judiciary Committee [approved](#) SB 1808, despite every public testimonial delivered in opposition to it. The bill would expand policies under SB 168, which was already struck down and found unconstitutional in a federal court. The move comes shortly after Governor Ron DeSantis ordered that Florida's Department of Children and Families (DCF) stop renewing annual licenses for shelters that house unaccompanied refugee children.

***The following is a statement from JJ, a youth activist who spoke against SB 1808 in Tallahassee on Monday:***

*"If your child were alone in a foreign country, wouldn't you want adults to do everything they could to help them, protect them and keep them safe? I'm so lucky that I was born in America, and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the world. I guess these kids feel the same way about America."*

***The following is a statement from Silvia Muñoz, a Cuban Peter Pan Refugee:***

*"I am saddened by the realization that the Florida Legislation is pushing forward Gov. DeSantis' xenophobic agenda. The unaccompanied children coming to the USA now are no different from*

*the ones who came, and benefited from this program in the 1960s. Actually, their situation is worse! We were not being killed; these children are.”*

***The following is a statement from Elena Garcia, a Cuban Peter Pan Refugee:***

*“I identify with the children who have arrived and are arriving at the US Southern border today and especially with those who are then sent to Florida to reunite with family. I imagine the angst their parents must feel when they have felt compelled to make the same decision my parents made more than sixty years ago. I relive the extreme homesickness I felt when I first arrived in the United States when I hear stories of the unaccompanied minors arriving today. I wish this were not happening, but it is.”*

***The following is a statement from Angie Fernandez, a Cuban Peter Pan Refugee:***

*“The common carrier provision of SB1808 would prevent these kinds of shelters from helping immigrant children, just like the children who came through Pedro Pan. Governor De Santis needs to put a face and a story to the hundreds of thousands of children from a diversity of countries who come here unaccompanied just like I did escaping torture, famine and persecution in the hope to encounter human sustenance and support to be able to survive and to thrive under the compassionate heart of the United States and Catholic Charities.”*

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