

Obama to Seek Congressional Waiver for Speedier Deportation of Migrant Children



Washington, June 30 (RHC)-- U.S. President Barack Obama is asking Congress for fast-track authority and additional funding to speed the deportation of migrant children fleeing violence and poverty in Central America.

The White House says Obama will submit an emergency request to waive anti-trafficking rules that prevent children from being immediately deported. If approved, the government could avoid regulations mandating the children's transfer to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services, which is tasked with acting in the child's "best interests," not forcing automatic deportation.

The waiver would apply to children from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, the home countries for most of the 52,000 unaccompanied children seized on the border since October. Obama will also ask lawmakers for at least \$2 billion to pay for more immigration judges and faster deportations.

According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, 58 percent of unaccompanied

children detained by the United States could be entitled to refugee protections under international law.

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