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May 9, 2012

Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I respectfully request that your office investigate the treatment of African American children and families by the Michigan Department of Human Services' Child Protective Services Department (CPS).

My office has received complaints from individuals and community groups alleging that CPS is removing African American children from their parents in an arbitrary and discriminatory manner. If there is a gap between the stated philosophy of CPS and the actual practice of child welfare with African American families in Michigan, we must close it.

I take very seriously allegations of children being forcibly and unjustifiably removed from the custody of his or her parents. I would like to meet and work with you to ensure our families have the protections afforded to them under the law.

Thank you very much for investigating this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Best Regards,

Hansen Clarke

Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress

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