

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We applaud your Administration's commitment to restoring the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) by offering the "Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration" on February 4, 2021. This Executive Order would rescind the Trump Administration's harmful refugee policies and raise the annual cap on refugee admissions to 62,500 by October 1, 2021. We urge you to sign an Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions in order to put these policies into action.

For several years now, the world has been grappling with the largest refugee crisis in recorded history. Fortunately, Colorado is one of the states with the most robust refugee settlement integration programs. Typically, Colorado welcomes an average of 1,650 individuals per year. As such, refugees have become an integral part of the State of Colorado and the lives of Coloradans.

Throughout our nation's history, the United States has been a beacon of hope and sanctuary for those fleeing for their lives. Refugees are the most thoroughly vetted people who enter our borders, undergoing a strict, often multi-year, screening process, to ensure that they pose no national security threat. Refugees are our neighbors and friends and make countless contributions to our communities and economy. In fact, according to a 2018 Economic and Fiscal Impact of Refugees in Colorado report, for every \$1 spent by Colorado on refugees, \$1.23 is returned to state and local governments from tax generated by refugees.

Since enactment of the bipartisan Refugee Act of 1980, the average annual goal for refugee admissions has been 95,000. Unfortunately, the Trump administration reduced the refugee ceiling every fiscal year starting with 45,000 for Fiscal Year 2018 to 15,000 for Fiscal Year 2021, which is the lowest in the 40-year history of USRAP. According to the Colorado Department of Human Services Refugee Services Program, 422 new refugees settled in Colorado in Fiscal Year 2020. The coronavirus pandemic complicated matters by causing refugee settlement programs to pause across the country. As a result, only 63 refugees settled in Colorado between October 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021. In the first half of Fiscal Year 2021, the United States has only admitted 2,050 refugees.

While your administration has taken steps to reverse these harmful policies and restore the image of America as a beacon of hope for all, more is needed to fulfill the U.S. commitment to refugees

in need of resettlement. We urge you to sign an Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2021 to increase the refugee ceiling from 15,000. Our future as a leader on the global stage depends on it.


Sincerely,




JASON CROW
Member of Congress



DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress



JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress



ED PERLMUTTER
Member of Congress