

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 8, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear President Trump and Secretary Pompeo:

We are outraged over reports that the Administration intends to cut refugee admissions to 15,000 for Fiscal Year 2021 after failing to fulfill its statutory obligation to consult with Congress by September 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup> This decision is unconscionable in a world where nearly one person is forcibly displaced from their home every two seconds. We call on you to reverse your decision and increase the Presidential Determination to at least 110,000 for FY 2021.

For several years now, the world has been grappling with the largest refugee crisis in recorded history. Over 79 million people were displaced at the end of 2019, and 100 million people were newly displaced during the last decade.<sup>2</sup> Over twenty-six million of those displaced are refugees, around 40% of whom are children.<sup>3</sup> Throughout our nation's history, the U.S. 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, ensuring that they pose no national security threat to our communities.

Since enactment of the bipartisan Refugee Act of 1980, the average annual goal for refugee admissions has been 95,000. In Fiscal Year 2016, the U.S. resettled approximately 85,000 refugees, and the Presidential Determination for Fiscal Year 2017 was 110,000. During the worst refugee crisis in history, these resettlement numbers pale in comparison to the support our allies are providing and that our moral leadership commands. Since President Trump signed Executive Order 13769 in 2017, the number of refugees coming to the U.S. each month has sharply dropped. Australia, Norway, Canada, Sweden, and Finland all accept more refugees per capita than the United States. Failing to do our part to alleviate this crisis undermines our nation's leadership, diplomacy, foreign policy, and national security.

Your Administration's Fiscal Year 2020 Presidential Determination (PD) of 18,000 was already the lowest number ever set by the U.S. This comes after a previous record low of 30,000

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<sup>1</sup> Nick Miroff, "Trump cuts refugee cap to lowest level ever, depicts them on campaign trail as a threat and burden," The Washington Post, Oct. 1, 2020 *available at* [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-cuts-refugee-cap/2020/10/01/a5113b62-03ed-11eb-8879-7663b816bfa5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-cuts-refugee-cap/2020/10/01/a5113b62-03ed-11eb-8879-7663b816bfa5_story.html)

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, Figures at a Glance, June 18, 2020, *available at* <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>

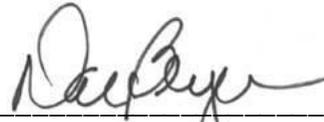
<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

for Fiscal Year 2019. These are gross failures of our country's moral and diplomatic leadership, scorned across the world. Cutting refugee admissions to 15,000 would mark yet another unprecedented abdication of leadership.

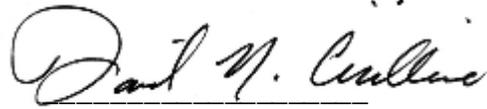
Your decision to cut the PD for Fiscal Year 2021 runs counter to the longstanding, bipartisan tradition of welcoming those in need of refuge. We reiterate our call for you to increase the Presidential Determination for Refugee Admissions to at least 110,000 without delay. Our future as a leader on the global stage depends on it.

Sincerely,

  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

/s/  
J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

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Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

/s/  
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

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Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

/s/  
A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress

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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David E. Price  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

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Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

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David Trone  
Member of Congress

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Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

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Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress