

April 6, 2021

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

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned, as leaders in our communities and elected officials at all levels of state and local government, write to you today to express our strong support for resettling refugees in our states and communities and to urge you to sign your proposed Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2021, with a goal to admit 62,500 refugees, without further delay.

We applaud your commitment on the campaign trail to rebuild the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and welcome the plan to do so as laid out in the Report to Congress on the Proposed Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions of February 12, 2021. In addition to raising the overall refugee target for this fiscal year, your proposals would remove the discriminatory refugee policies of the previous administration.

As members of the global community, we collectively face a forced migration crisis of historic proportions that requires bold leadership. At least 80 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes and among them are more than 29 million refugees. Despite this, only a tiny fraction will ever be afforded the chance for resettlement to a third country, like the United States. Now is the time for your administration to fulfill its commitment to human rights and refugee protection; only then can we urge the global community to also do their part.

We also know intimately that refugee resettlement revitalizes our communities. We witness the positive impacts of refugee contributions on our communities every day, and as a part of a country built by immigrants, over generations. Refugee students, neighbors, business owners, employees, customers, elected officials, and leaders invigorate our economies, bring innovation to our towns, and strengthen our communities through their contributions to our public life and cultural institutions. In every way, they embody what it means to be an American.

And, as the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged American society at every level, refugees have been on the front lines: as healthcare professionals who treat COVID-19 patients, truckers who transport essential goods across the country, workers who keep our grocery stores running, and more.

As you move forward with your administration's agenda, we urge you to consider the voices of communities across the country and expeditiously sign the Emergency FY21 Presidential Determination at 62,500 refugees.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Assemblymember, Sacramento, California
Pious Ali, Councilmember, Portland, Maine
Alma Anaya, County Commissioner, Chicago, Illinois

Marti Anderson, State Representative, Des Moines, Iowa
Richard Andrade, State Representative, Phoenix, Arizona
Trish Becker, Special District County Commissioner, St. Augustine, Florida
Lisa Belcastro, Delegate, Pikesville, Maryland
Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Vice Mayor, Alexandria, Virginia
Natalie Beyer, School Board Member, Durham, North Carolina
Alessandra Biaggi, State Senator, Bronx/Westchester, New York
David Bowen, State Representative, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Byron W. Brown, Mayor, Buffalo, New York
Elizabeth Brown, Councilmember, Columbus, Ohio
Colin Byrd, Mayor, Greenbelt, Maryland
Javiera Caballero, Councilmember, Durham, North Carolina
Heidi Carter, County Commissioner, Durham, North Carolina
Lorig Charkoudian, State Representative, Takoma Park, Maryland
Ryan Clancy, County Supervisor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mimi Cowan, County Board Speaker, Naperville, Illinois
David Donofrio, School Board Member, Grove City, Ohio
Rob Dorans, Councilmember, Columbus, Ohio
Laura Ellman, State Senator, Naperville, Illinois
John Engen, Mayor, Missoula, Montana
Brian J. Feldman, State Senator, Annapolis, Maryland
Susan Fisher, State Representative, Asheville, North Carolina
Anthony Ford, Mayor, Stockbridge, Georgia
DeDreana Freeman, Councilmember, Durham, North Carolina
Rosanna Gabaldon, State Senator, Sahuarita, Arizona
Robyn Gabel, State Representative, Evanston, Illinois
Eric Garcetti, Mayor, Los Angeles, California
Carlos Garcia, Councilmember, Phoenix, Arizona
Stacie Gilmore, City Council President, Denver, Colorado
Elvi Gray-Jackson, State Senator, Anchorage, Alaska
Mia Gregerson, State Representative, SeaTac, Washington
Betty Guardado, Councilmember, Phoenix, Arizona
Brandon Haskell, County Commissioner, Lansing, Michigan
Pam Hemminger, Mayor, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Lisa Herbold, Councilmember, Seattle, Washington
Berdetta Hodge, School Board Member, Tempe, Arizona
Tom Hucker, County Council President, Rockville, Maryland
Zach Hudson, State Representative, Troutdale, Oregon
Carol Jackson, Councilmember, Charleston, South Carolina
Wendy Jacobs, County Commissioner, Durham, North Carolina
Mitra Jalali, Councilmember, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Sabrina Javellana, City Commissioner, Hallandale Beach, Florida
Frank Jewell, County Commissioner, Duluth, Minnesota

Jillian Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore, Durham, North Carolina
Sydney Jordan, State Representative, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Dotie Joseph, State Representative, Miami, Florida
Anne Kaiser, Delegate, Silver Spring, Maryland
John Kefalas, County Commissioner, Fort Collins, Colorado
Chris Kennedy, State Representative, Lakewood, Colorado
Timothy Kennedy, State Senator, Buffalo, New York
Brian King, State Representative, Salt Lake City, Utah
Cathy Kipp, State Representative, Fort Collins, Colorado
Kacy Kostiuk, Councilmember, Takoma Park, Maryland
Steve Kozachik, Councilmember, Tucson, Arizona
Liz Krueger, State Senator, New York, New York
Lauren Kuby, Councilmember, Tempe, Arizona
Daniel La Spata, Councilmember, Chicago, Illinois
Lydia Lavelle, Mayor, Carrboro, North Carolina
Fue Lee, State Representative, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Matthew Lesser, State Senator, Middletown, Connecticut
Jack Patrick Lewis, State Representative, Framingham, Massachusetts
Brooke Lierman, Delegate, Baltimore, Maryland
Lesley Lopez, Delegate, Germantown, Maryland
Raymond Lopez, Alderman, Chicago, Illinois
Chokwe A. Lumumba, Mayor, Jackson, Mississippi
Donna Lupardo, Assemblymember, Binghamton, New York
Kevin Madden, Councilmember, Media, Pennsylvania
Matt Martin, Alderman, Chicago, Illinois
John Marty, State Senator, St Paul, Minnesota
Tim Mathern, State Senator, Fargo, North Dakota
Candy Mero Carlson, Councilmember, Worcester, Massachusetts
Graig Meyer, State Representative, Raleigh, North Carolina
Dale Miller, County Councilperson, Cleveland, Ohio
David Moon, Delegate, Takoma Park, Maryland
Reynold Nesiba, State Senator, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Cyndi Nguyen, Councilmember, New Orleans, Louisiana
Tram Nguyen, State Representative, Andover, Massachusetts
Eve Niedergang, Councilmember, Princeton, NJ, New Jersey
Deborah Ortega, Councilmember, Denver, Colorado
Julie Palakovich Carr, Delegate, Rockville, Maryland
Sandra Pappas, State Senator, St Paul, Minnesota
Letitia Plummer, Councilmember, Houston, Texas
Stanford Prescott, School Board Member, Phoenix, Arizona
Charlie Reece, Councilmember, Durham, North Carolina
Annie Rice, Alderperson, St Louis, Missouri
Rebecca Rios, State Senator, Phoenix, Arizona

Carlina Rivera, Councilmember, New York, New York
Penny Ronning, Councilmember, Billings, Montana
Lindsay Sabadosa, State Representative, Northampton, Massachusetts
Ibraheem Samirah, Delegate, Herndon, Virginia
Steve Schewel, Mayor, Durham, North Carolina
Joan Shannon, Councilmember, Burlington, Vermont
Kathy Sheehan, Mayor, Albany, New York
Jeff Silvestrini, Mayor, Millcreek, Utah
Shelly Simonds, Delegate, Newport News, Virginia
Seema Singh, Councilmember, Knoxville, Tennessee
Danene Sorace, Mayor, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Lori Stegmann, County Commissioner, Portland, Oregon
Vaughn Stewart, Delegate, Derwood, Maryland
Kate Stewart, Mayor, Takoma Park, Maryland
David Strohmaier, County Commissioner, Missoula, Montana
Raquel Teran, State Representative, Phoenix, Arizona
My-Linh Thai, State Representative, Newcastle, Washington
Jeffrey Thielman, School Board Member, Arlington, Massachusetts
Maida Townsend, State Representative, South Burlington, Vermont
Kathy Tran, Delegate, Springfield, Virginia
Jacqueline Traynere, County Commissioner, Bolingbrook, Illinois
Edwin Vargas, State Representative, Hartford, Connecticut
Andre Vasquez, Alderman, Chicago, Illinois
Jessica Vega Pederson, County Commissioner, Portland, Oregon
James Walkinshaw, Supervisor, Fairfax, Virginia
Elizabeth Weight, State Representative, West Valley City, Utah
Marty Wilde, State Representative, Eugene, Oregon
Jenny Wilson, Mayor, Salt Lake City, Utah
Justin Wilson, Mayor, Alexandria, Virginia
Melissa Wintrow, State Senator, Boise, Idaho
Patrick Wojahn, Mayor, College Park, Maryland
Jay Xiong, State Representative, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Michael Yantachka, State Representative, Charlotte, Vermont
Gregory Young, County Supervisor, Gloversville, New York
Doug Zylstra, County Commissioner, Holland, Michigan