

August 27, 2018

Dear

As an American and Catholic, I am discouraged by the Administration's ongoing efforts to simultaneously reduce the number of refugees the U.S. welcomes each year and its proposals to cut the humanitarian assistance the U.S. provides to refugees overseas. I write today to express my strong support for both life-saving programs. Please urge the Administration to resettle 75,000 refugees in our states and communities in the coming fiscal year (FY) 2019. Furthermore, I commend Congress for rejecting the Administration's requests to cut foreign assistance to refugees in FY 2019 and ask you to support Senate level funding for international refugee assistance.

Between FY 2016 and FY 2018, the Administration reduced the annual goal for refugee admissions to the U.S. from 85,000 to 45,000. As the Administration consults with government stakeholders to determine the FY 2019 admission level, I am concerned that the Administration will once again cut the goal in half. As Catholics, welcoming refugees is part of our life of faith. Jesus calls us to welcome newcomers as they flee from persecution and seek to build new lives in our country. The common immigrant and refugee experience that we share has helped build our nation and is part of what makes our communities strong and vibrant. They are students, business owners, and community leaders. They are also our neighbors and friends. As the Administration consults with Congress on refugee admissions, I implore you to support an admission level of 75,000.

While resettling and welcoming refugees to the U.S. is an important life-saving tool of protection needed for a small percentage of refugees, we must also continue to provide life-saving international assistance to those fleeing war and persecution. From South Sudan to Myanmar, communities are forced to leave their homes with little to nothing to support their families. As a blessed nation, we should strive to do more to assist refugees overseas, not less. During Congressional negotiations on FY 2019 appropriations, I ask you to support Senate level funding for overseas refugee aid.

Sincerely,

Signature:

Printed Name:

Address:

Telephone: