

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 25, 2017

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

Dear President Trump,

We write to urge you to set a robust refugee admissions goal for Fiscal Year 2018.

As you know, we are in the midst of the largest refugee crisis in global history. Around the world, 22.5 million people are refugees, more than half of whom are children. An unprecedented 65.6 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes because of violence, persecution, and war. Welcoming properly vetted refugees is both a moral imperative and enhances America's leadership and credibility abroad. Accordingly, we are requesting that you make a strong presidential determination for continued successful refugee admissions in Fiscal Year 2018.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is a critical pillar of our national security and our foreign policy. The USRAP, the world's most thorough resettlement vetting program, has safely and successfully resettled more than three million refugees from around the world to American communities across the country since 1975. Applicants must undergo a rigorous screening process, with refugees spending roughly two years in exhaustive vetting by our nation's top security and counter-terrorism experts. The importance of the USRAP to our national security has been emphasized by American veterans and former senior government officials from diverse ideological backgrounds with wide experience in international policy and homeland security.

Since the enactment of the 1980 Refugee Act, 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. However, since Executive Order 13769 was signed, the number of refugees coming to the United States each month has dropped precipitously. Even in 2016, Australia, Norway, and Canada all accepted more refugees per capita than the United States. Failing to do our part to protect the victims of this global crisis undermines U.S. leadership, diplomacy, and national security.

The 50,000 number recommended in the President's budget request is insufficient when compared to the millions of people who have been forced to flee their countries. A Presidential Determination of just 50,000 would be the lowest refugee admissions goal since enactment of the 1980 Refugee Act, preventing thousands of people from enriching American communities while seeking safety, protection, and an opportunity to provide a better future for themselves and their families in the U.S.

The current global humanitarian crisis requires strong American leadership. To reflect that, we request that your Presidential Determination for the upcoming fiscal year set a robust refugee admissions goal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together with you and your Administration on this critical issue.

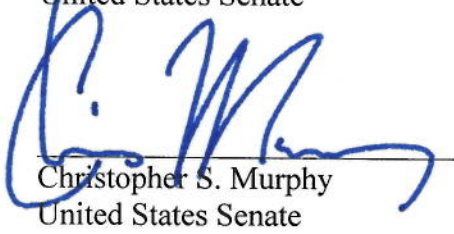
Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate



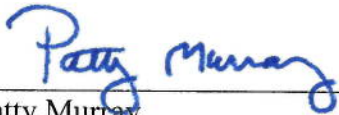
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate



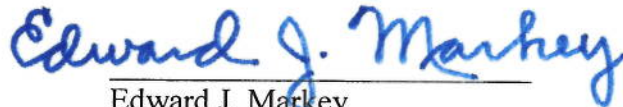
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate



John McCain
United States Senate



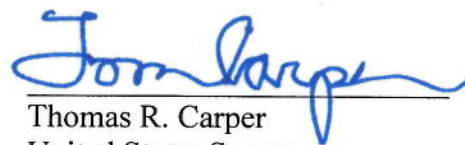
Patty Murray
United States Senate



Edward J. Markey
United States Senate



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate



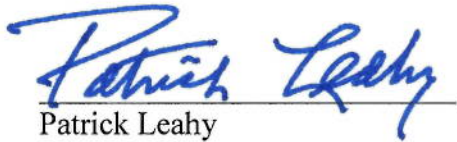
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senate



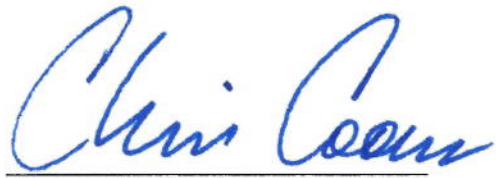
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate



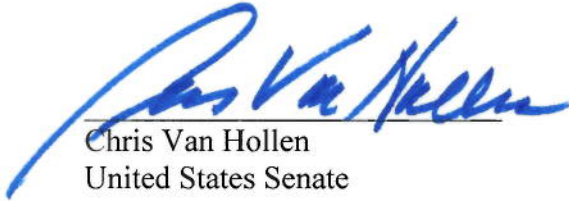
Al Franken
United States Senate



Patrick Leahy
United States Senate



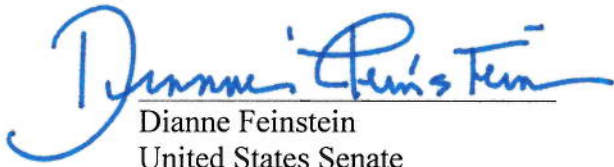
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate



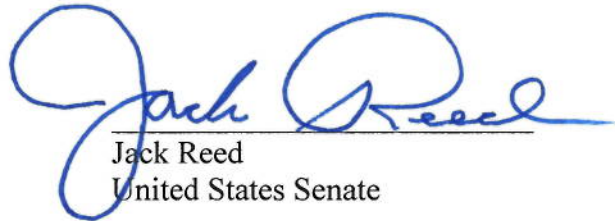
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate



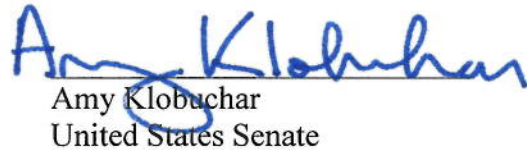
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate




Jack Reed
United States Senate



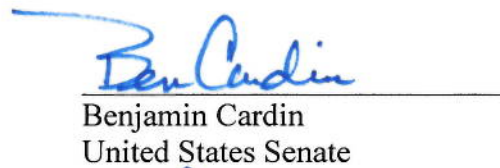
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate



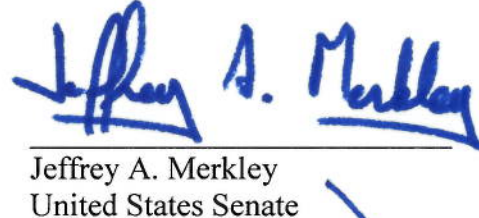
Mazie Hirono
United States Senate



Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate



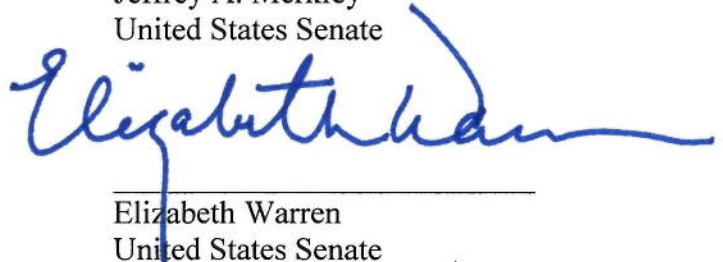
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate



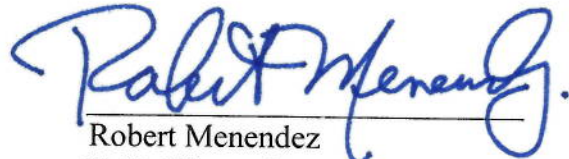
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate



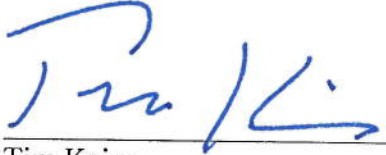
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate



Richard Blumenthal
United State Senate



Robert Menendez
United States Senate



Tim Kaine
United States Senate



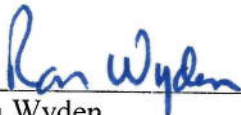
Maria Cantwell
United States Senate



Bernard Sanders
United States Senate



Kamala Harris
United States Senate



Ron Wyden
United States Senate



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate



Cory A. Booker
United States Senate



Sherrod Brown
United States Senate

CC: The Honorable Rex Tillerson, Secretary, State Department
The Honorable Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary, Homeland Security Department
The Honorable Mark Green, Administrator, Agency for International Development
The Honorable H.R. McMaster, Assistant to the President, National Security Advisor