

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In light of the recent U.S. airstrikes in Syria and your acknowledgment and condemnation of the cruel atrocities the Syrian government has committed against its own people, we urge you to immediately take effective action to help innocent Syrians. As you stated, “Assad choked out the lives of helpless men, women and children. It was a slow and brutal death for so many. Even beautiful babies were cruelly murdered in this very barbaric attack. No child of God should ever suffer such horror.”

That is why we are asking you to immediately rescind your Executive Order dated March 6, 2017 which suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days and to fully mobilize U.S. government efforts to assist Syrian refugees from this horrific war who are simply seeking safety for themselves and their families.

In 2016, the United Nations identified an estimated 13.5 million Syrians who require humanitarian assistance inside Syria. Over five million Syrians have fled dangerous conditions to seek safety as refugees in neighboring countries. We believe it is imperative that the U.S. regain its leadership role and help resettle the thousands of Syrians who have been victimized by an oppressive regime.

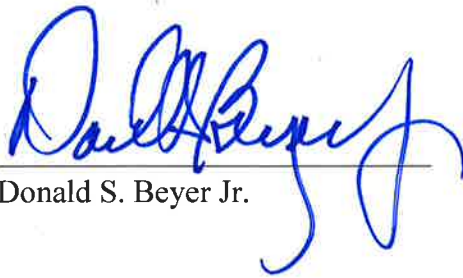
The U.S. has a long history of resettling refugees. Refugees are the most thoroughly vetted individuals entering the U.S., undergoing the scrutiny of the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the National Counterterrorism Center and the intelligence community. Syrian refugees are also subject to “enhanced” review which involves an additional layer of scrutiny at DHS prior to an in-person interview by a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) adjudicator. At a time when there are more refugees, asylum-seekers, and displaced persons than at any time since World War II, the U.S. cannot stand idly by.

We also ask that you prioritize supporting U.S. foreign aid, which helps respond to humanitarian crises around the world. American assistance is a crucial lifeline and helps maintain global stability worldwide. Cuts to American foreign assistance, particularly to humanitarian programs, will only exacerbate the suffering of millions of refugees and further destabilize the Middle East. Global threats like ISIS grow out of instability, and the humanitarian crises that result, if left

insufficiently attended, only lead to further destabilization. We strongly urge you to maintain our funding commitment to effectively prevent these global threats from finding roots.

It is time for the United States to step up and show the world that we are not indifferent to the grave suffering of the Syrian people. Again, we urge you to safely resettle Syrian refugees into our country, and to maintain funding for those who need our help the most. Doing so would maintain American humanitarian leadership and send a message of hope to oppressed people all over the world. Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to your response and future actions.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.



David N. Cicilline



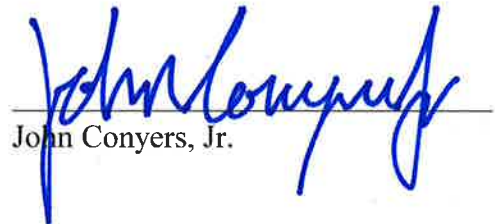
Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Pramila Jayapal



Zoe Lofgren



John Conyers, Jr.



Eliot L. Engel



Bobby L. Rush



Alcee L. Hastings



Sheila Jackson Lee



Joe Crowley



Luis V. Gutiérrez

Chellie R

Chellie Pingree

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley

Ted W. Lieu

Ted W. Lieu

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer

Tony Cárdenas

Tony Cárdenas

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Filemon Vela

Filemon Vela

Bradley S. Schneider

Bradley S. Schneider


Val Butler Demings


Peter Welch



Debbie Dingell

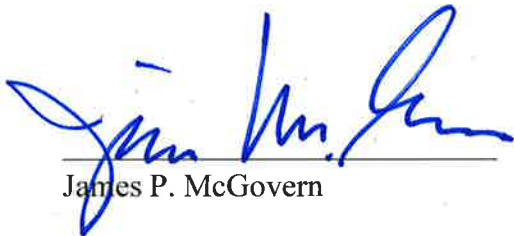

Niki Tsongas



Rick Larsen


Doris Matsui


Kathy Castor



John K. Delaney


James P. McGovern


Mark Pocan


Paul D. Tonko


Donald M. Payne, Jr.


Colleen Hanabusa


Judy Chu


Jamie Raskin


Ted Deutch


Raul M. Grijalva

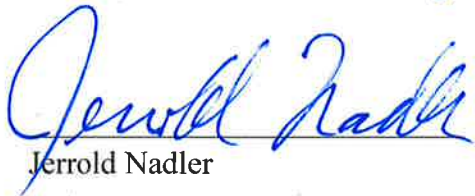
Raul M. Grijalva


Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal


Robin L. Kelly

Robin L. Kelly


Jerrold Nadler

Jerrold Nadler


Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard


Nydia M. Velázquez

Nydia M. Velázquez


Bill Foster

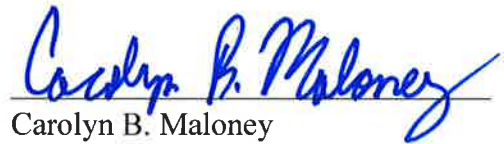
Bill Foster


Dwight Evans

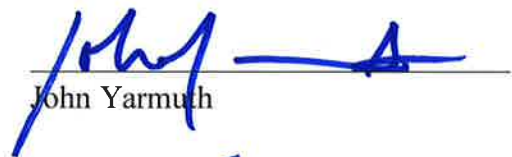
Dwight Evans


Elijah E. Cummings

Elijah E. Cummings


Carolyn B. Maloney

Carolyn B. Maloney


John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth


Adam B. Schiff

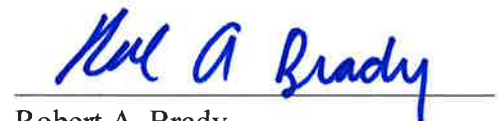
Adam B. Schiff


Mark Takano

Mark Takano


Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly


Robert A. Brady

Robert A. Brady


Seth Moulton

Seth Moulton



Derek Kilmer



Norma J. Torres



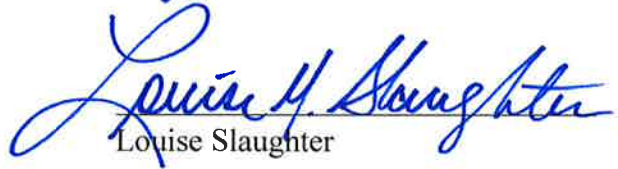
Michelle Lujan Grisham



Stephen F. Lynch



Anna G. Eshoo



Louise Slaughter



Gene Green



Adriano Espaillat



Elizabeth H. Esty



Michael E. Capuano



A. Donald McEachin



G. K. Butterfield



J. Luis Correa




Gregory W. Meeks




Lois Frankel




David E. Price



Yvette D. Clarke



Juan Vargas

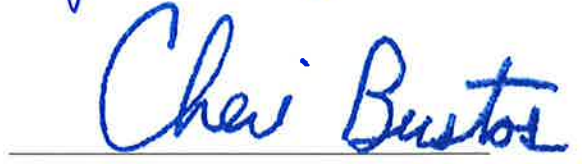

José E. Serrano



Albio Sires


Jared Polis


Grace Meng



Tim Ryan


Cheri Bustos


Thomas R. Suozzi


Ruben J. Kihuen


Sander M. Levin


Salud Carbajal


Ruben Gallego


Jan Schakowsky


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


Betty McCollum



Suzan DeBene



Adam Smith



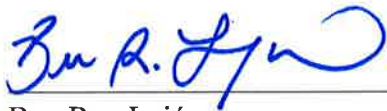
Katherine Clark



Mike Doyle



Anthony G. Brown



Ben Ray Lujan



Ro Khanna



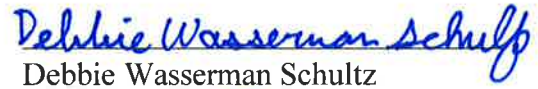
Keith Ellison



Al Lawson, Jr.



Matt Cartwright



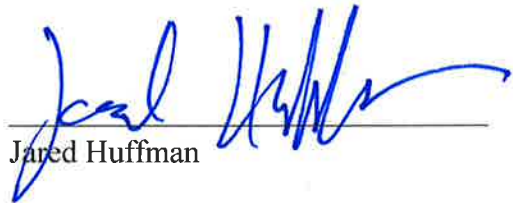
Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Jimmy Panetta



Nanette Diaz Barragan



Jared Huffman