

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you work to appropriate Fiscal Year 2016 funds beyond the current Continuing Resolution that runs through December 11, 2015, we respectfully ask that you provide sufficient funding to meet the needs of refugee assistance and resettlement programs.

As you know, 60 million people are displaced around the world, the largest number since World War II. The plight of more than 4 million Syrian refugees and 8 million internally displaced Syrians has compelled the United Nations to describe the Syrian refugee crisis as “the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era”, highlighting the urgent and immediate need for action.. While additional funds will not solve this crisis alone, they will go a long way to help refugees and displaced persons abroad, as well as to support refugees resettled in the United States. There is bipartisan support for increasing such funds, as evidenced by *The Middle East Refugee Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act* recently introduced by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

Additionally, in order to properly secure the safety of the American people, we must ensure that as the United States accepts more refugees—including Syrians—we do so only after subjecting them to the most rigorous screening and security vetting of any category of traveler to the United States. Currently, it takes between 18 and 24 months for each individual, over 75% of whom are women and children, to enter the US. The current process for Syrian refugees to enter the country is extensive, and increasing funding would speed up the process and ensure the highest security measures are upheld.

Historically, the United States has recognized its moral and legal imperative to lead by example in addressing global issues such as refugee resettlement. That is why our nation is the largest resettlement country in the world, taking in almost 70 percent of all refugees resettled by the

UNHCR globally last year. Recently, the Obama Administration announced an increase in refugee admissions, from 70,000 last fiscal year, to 85,000 in FY2016 and 100,000 in FY2017. It is critical that adequate funding is provided so that local communities have the resources they need to help refugees integrate and thrive.

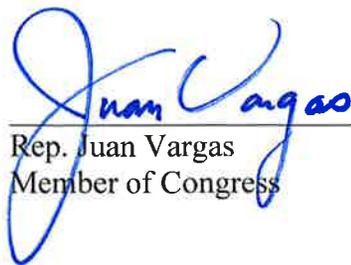
We ask that you substantially increase funds to meet the Administration's need for the following refugee-related accounts:

- **The U.S. Agency for International Development's International Disaster Assistance account** responds to the growing numbers of internally displaced persons, particularly in Syria and Iraq, and to supports refugee hosting countries and promote regional stability.
- **The Department of State's Migration and Refugee Assistance and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance accounts** assist refugees abroad and identify, process and provide initial integration assistance to refugees resettled in the United States.
- **The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement's Refugee and Entrant Assistance account** ensures local communities have the resources they need to help refugees integrate and thrive as they rebuild their lives.
- **The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, for the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate account** to more expeditiously screen refugees for resettlement to the United States, a process that is currently fee-funded and in need of additional capacity.

As the United States encourages other countries to strengthen their commitments to refugee protection, the world is watching how the United States responds to the situation in Syria. As Congress makes funding decisions for FY16 and beyond, it is critical that our humanitarian and foreign policy priorities align with how we allocate our budgetary resources.

We deeply appreciate the work of the appropriations committee, and we respectfully encourage you to increase funding for these life-saving accounts so that the United States can demonstrate leadership in response to the global refugee crisis and the plight of Syrian refugees. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



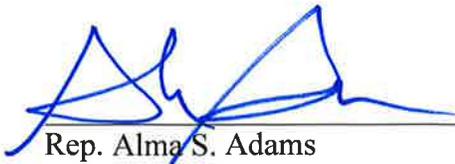
Rep. Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Rep. David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Rep. Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



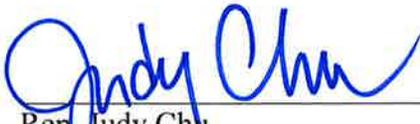
Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Rep. Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Rep. André Carson
Member of Congress



Rep. Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Rep. Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Rep. Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Rep. John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Rep. Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Rep. Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Rep. Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Rep. Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Rep. Bill Foster
Member of Congress



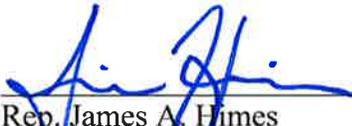
Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Rep. Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Rep. Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



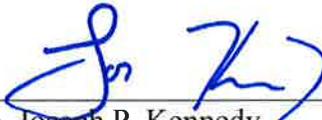
Rep. James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Rep. Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy
Member of Congress



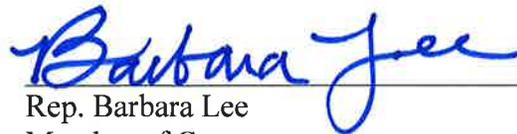
Rep. Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Rep. James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Rep. Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



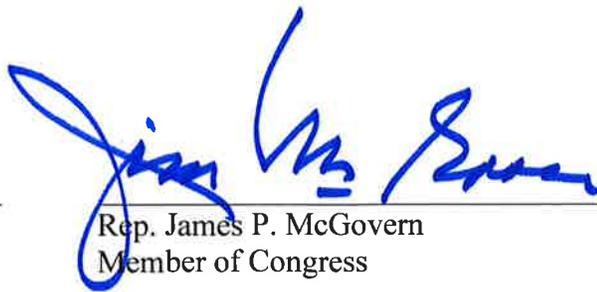
Rep. Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Rep. Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



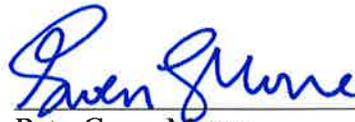
Rep. Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Rep. James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Rep. Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Rep. Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



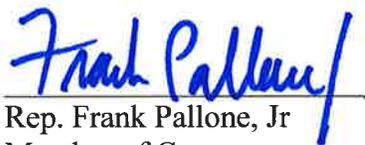
Rep. Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



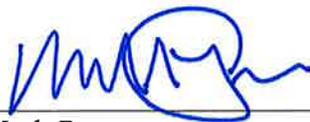
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



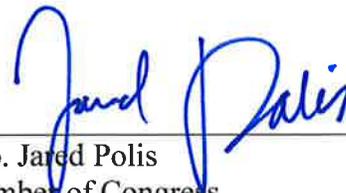
Rep. Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr
Member of Congress



Rep. Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



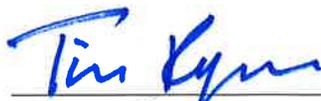
Rep. Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Rep. Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Rep. Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Rep. Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



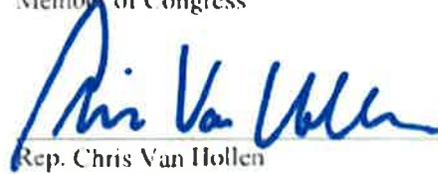
Rep. Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Rep. Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Rep. Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Rep. Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Rep. Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Rep. Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



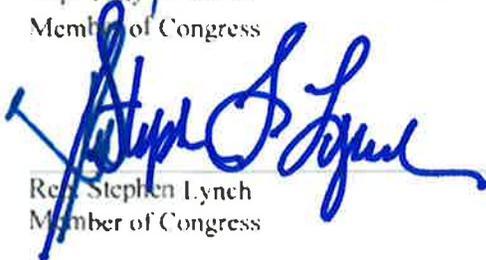
Rep. Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Rep. Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Rep. Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Rep. Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



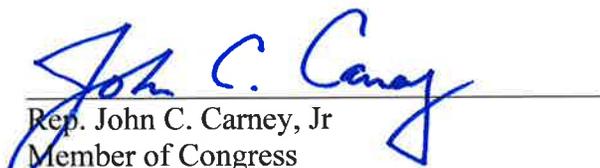
Rep. Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

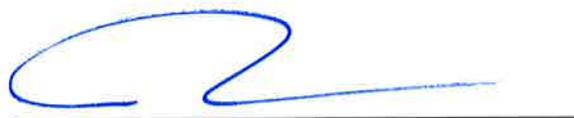

Rep. Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Rep. Mark Takano
Member of Congress

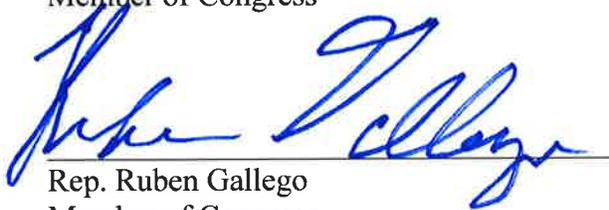

Rep. Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

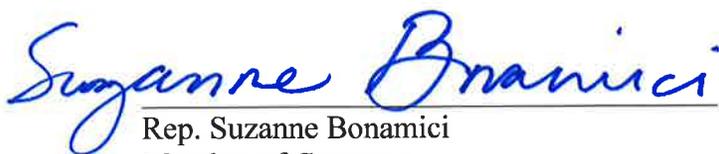

Rep. Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

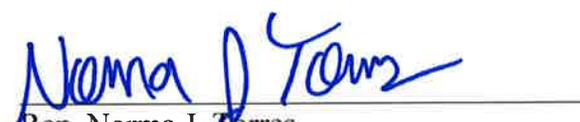

Rep. John C. Carney, Jr
Member of Congress


Rep. John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

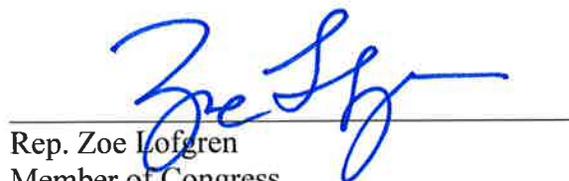

Rep. Henry C. "Mark" Johnson, Jr
Member of Congress


Rep. Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress


Rep. Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

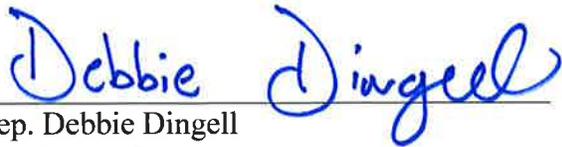

Rep. Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress


Rep. Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress


Rep. Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Rep. Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress


Rep. Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Rep. Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Rep. Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Rep. Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



Rep. Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Rep. Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



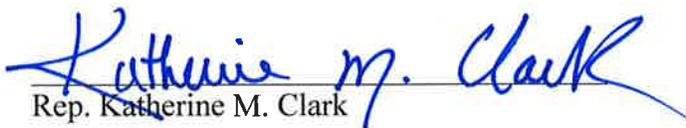
Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Rep. Peter Welch
Member of Congress



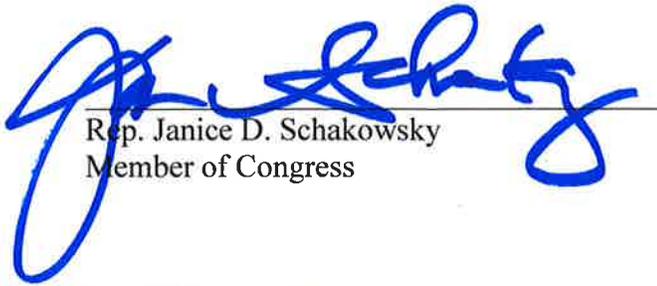
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Rep. Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Rep. John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Rep. Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



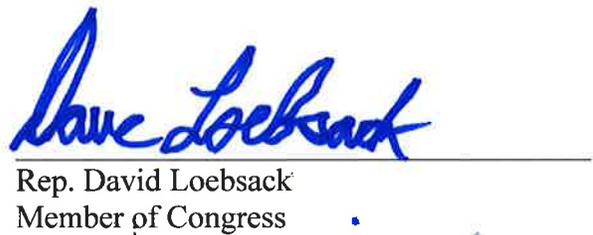
Rep. Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Rep. Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



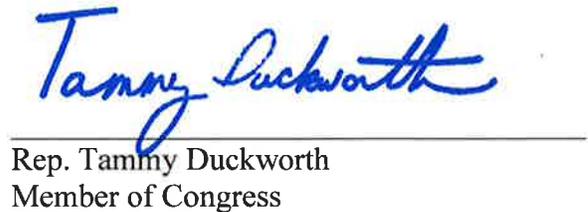
Rep. Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Rep. David Loebbeck
Member of Congress



Rep. Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



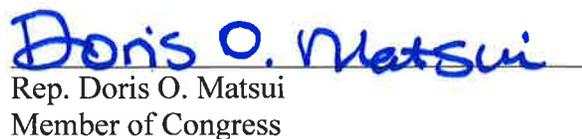
Rep. Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Rep. Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Rep. Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Rep. Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Rep. Al Green
Member of Congress



Rep. Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Rep. John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Rep. Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Rep. Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Rep. Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Rep. Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



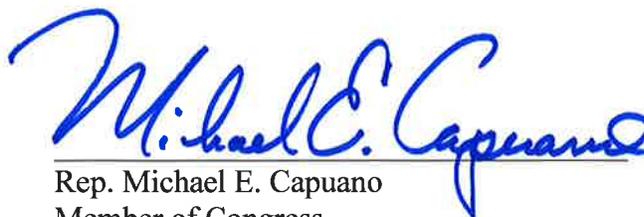
Rep. Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



Rep. John B. Larson
Member of Congress



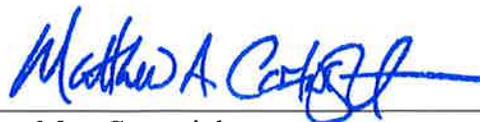
Rep. Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



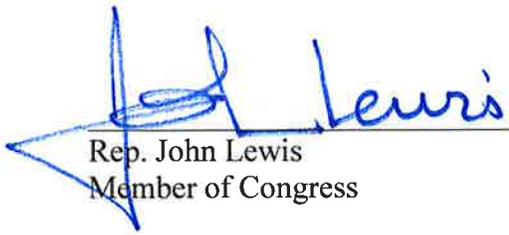
Rep. Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Rep. Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



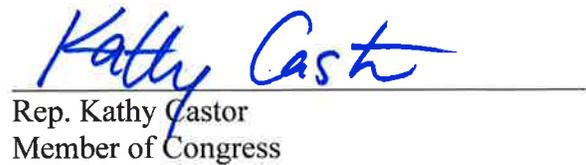
Rep. John Lewis
Member of Congress



Rep. Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Rep. William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Rep. Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Rep. Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Rep. Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress



Rep. Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress