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Congress of the United States
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April 15, 2019

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Dear Mara Koven-Gelman:

Thank you for contacting me to share your support for refugee resettlement. I appreciate hearing from you.

As you may know, it has been recently reported that the Trump Administration intends to lower the annual refugee admission ceiling to 30,000 - the lowest goal in the history of the US refugee admissions program. Since 1975, the U.S government has welcomed over 3 million refugees, escaping persecution, war, and violence from around the world and I am deeply troubled by this Administration's concerted effort to upend our legacy of providing protection and safe haven for the vulnerable.

There are over 21 million refugees in the world and less than 1% are ever resettled. In midst of this ever-growing trend of global displacement, drastically reducing refugee admissions would exacerbate the suffering of torture survivors, unaccompanied refugee children and persecuted religious minorities. Welcoming refugees is beneficial not just for the sake of our humanitarian leadership, but also beneficial for our economy. A Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) study found that the net fiscal impact of refugees was positive over a 10-year period generating \$63 billion in government revenue.

I am proud to know that our community is welcoming to refugees from all around the world. In addition to hearing from you, I have met and spoken with a number of Western New Yorkers and agencies directly involved in refugee resettlement and impacted by this Administration's actions. Know that I will continue to support efforts to implement compassionate refugee resettlement policies.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please feel free to do so with any other issues of concern to you in the future.

Sincerely,



Congressman Brian Higgins
NY-26