

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 4th, 2015

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

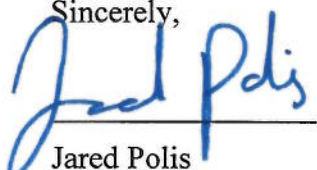
The United States has a moral imperative to be a safe-haven for those seeking refuge from violence abroad. As the civil war in Syria reaches its fifth year, and ISIS attempts to gain a foothold through its systemic practice of persecution and extreme violence, millions of innocent Syrians have been forced to leave their home country. The challenge to take in these refugees is global in scale. The United States, as the world's lone superpower, has the obligation to do its part.

Given this responsibility, we respectfully urge you to reject attempts to use critical year-end spending legislation to block the acceptance of refugees, including attempts to defund critical accounts or efforts to make it harder for refugees of a certain religion to seek sanctuary in the United States. Rather, we believe that funds available for the vetting and placement of refugees should be *increased* to ensure a thorough and expeditious process.

We should all agree that inserting wholesale changes to refugee admission policies into a year-end spending bill – where they cannot be properly debated or amended – is not the appropriate way to consider these issues.

Congress should not attempt to strong-arm the President into turning his back on Syrian families desperately seeking refuge from violence and persecution by threatening to shut down the government unless he acquiesces to their demands.

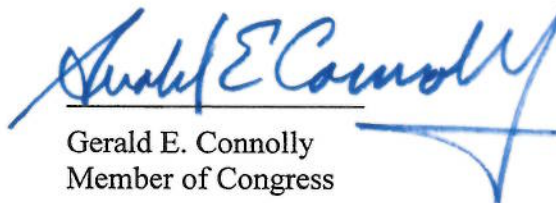
Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



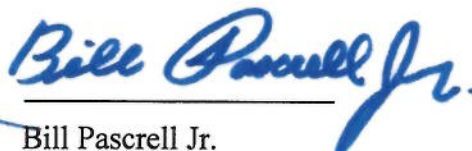
Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



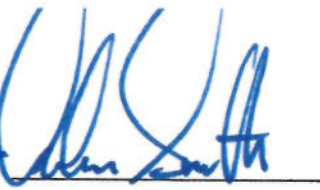
Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



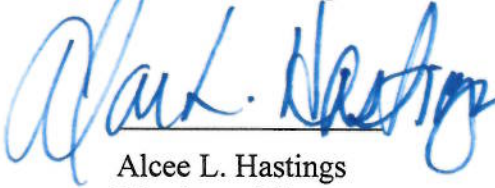
André Carson
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



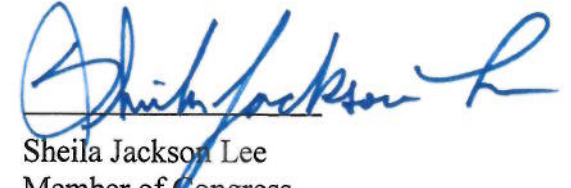
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress



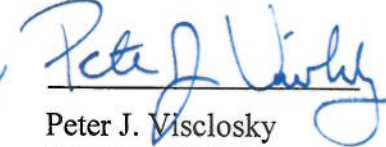
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



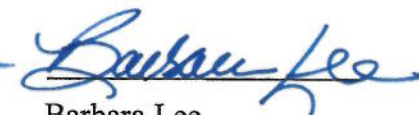
Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



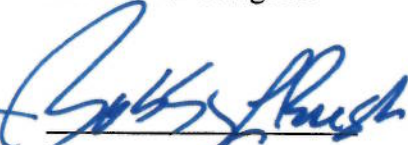
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



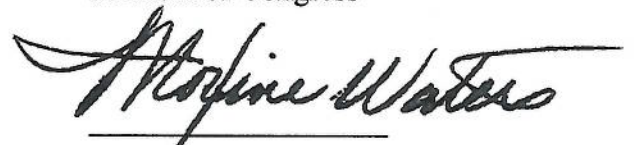
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



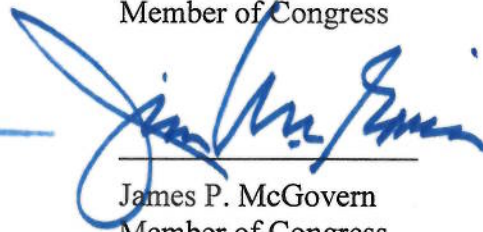
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress




William R. Keating
Member of Congress




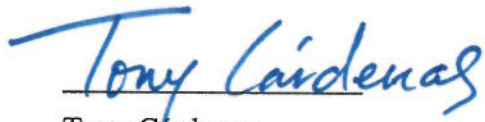
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

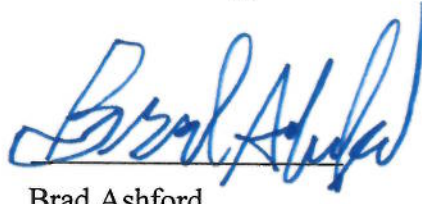

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

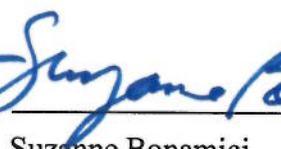

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress


Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress


Brad Ashford
Member of Congress

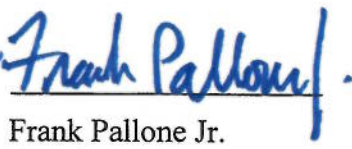

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

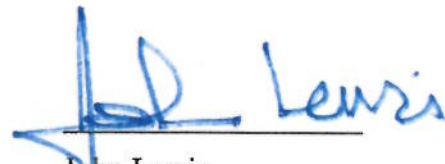

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

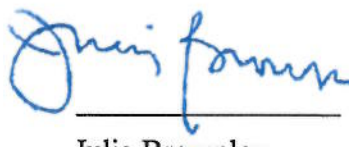

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

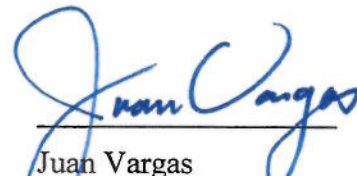

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress

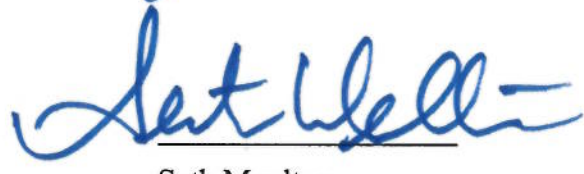

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

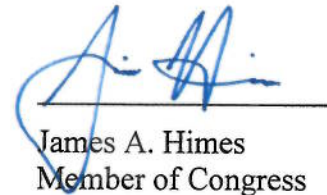

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

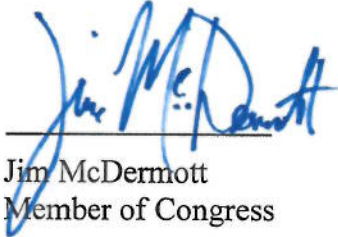


Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress



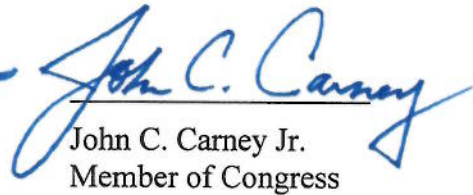
James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



John C. Carney Jr.
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



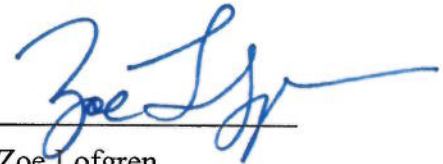
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



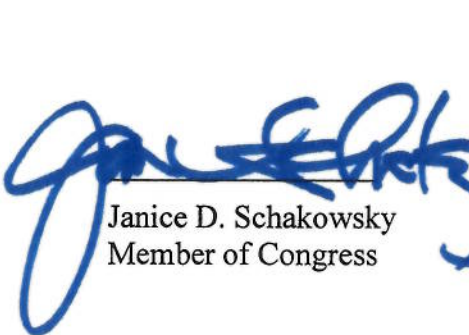
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



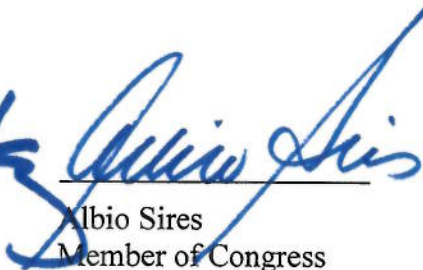
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



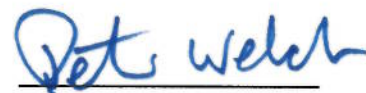
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



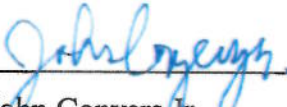
Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress





Albio Sires
Member of Congress




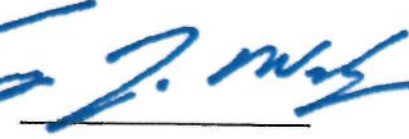
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress

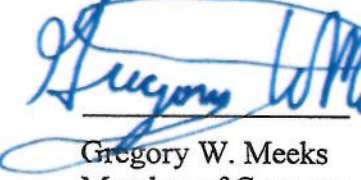

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank," Johnson Jr.
Member of Congress


Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

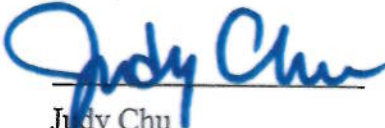

Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby," Scott
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

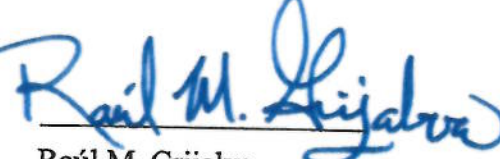

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress


Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne Jr.
Member of Congress


Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress


Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress