

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

Dear Speaker Ryan,

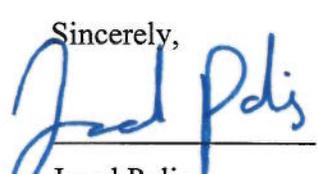
The United States has a moral imperative to be a safe-haven for those seeking refuge from violence abroad. As the civil war in Syria reaches its fifth year, and ISIS attempts to gain a foothold through its systemic practice of persecution and extreme violence, millions of innocent Syrians have been forced 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.

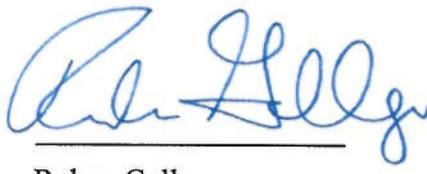
Given this responsibility, we respectfully urge you to reject attempts to use critical year-end spending legislation to block the acceptance of refugees, including attempts to defund critical accounts or efforts to make it harder for refugees of a certain religion to seek sanctuary in the United States. 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,

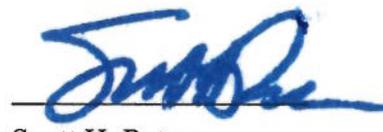
  
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Member of Congress

  
Gerald E. Connolly  
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Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress

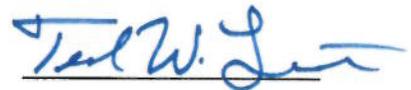
  
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



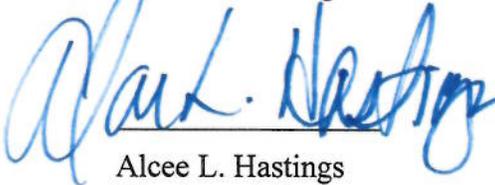
André Carson  
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Adam Smith  
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Ted Lieu  
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Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan  
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



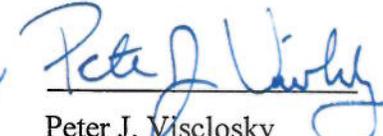
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky  
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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



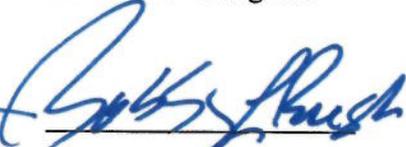
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



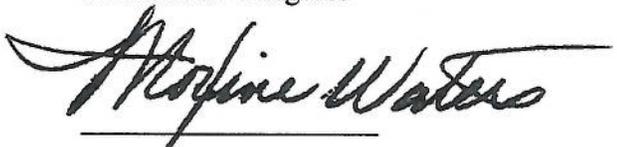
Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



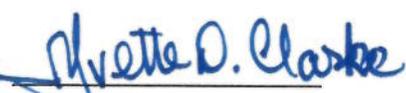
Bobby L. Rush  
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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
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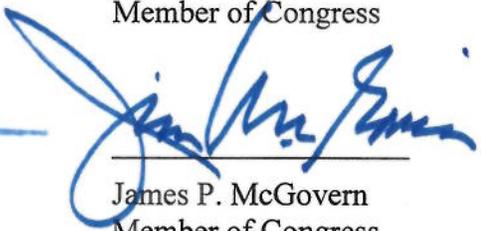
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



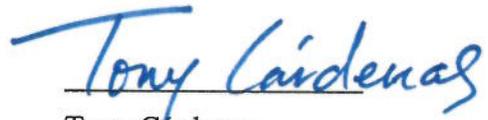
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

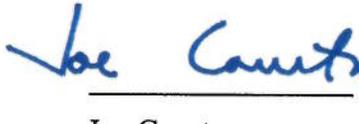


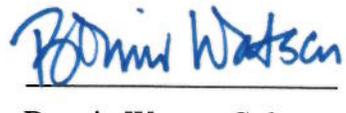
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

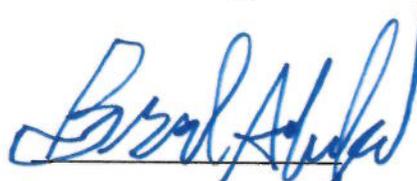
  
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

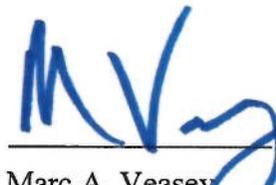
  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

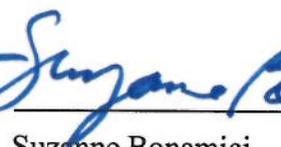
  
James R. Langevin  
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Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress

  
Brad Ashford  
Member of Congress

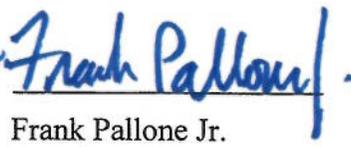
  
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

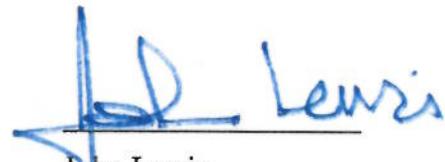
  
Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress

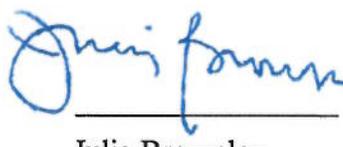
  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

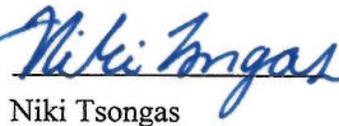
  
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

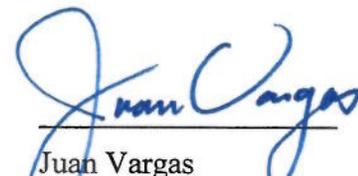
  
Frederica S. Wilson  
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Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress

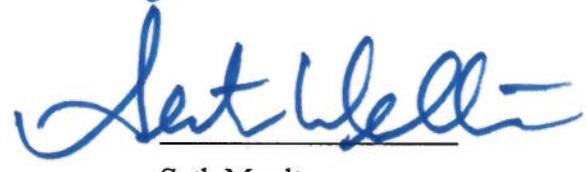
  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

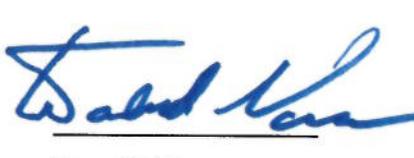
  
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

  
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

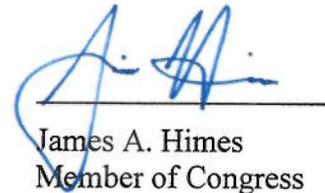
  
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

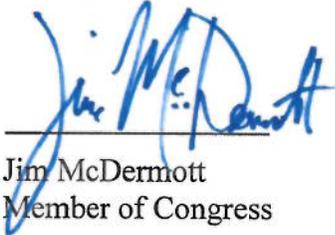


Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

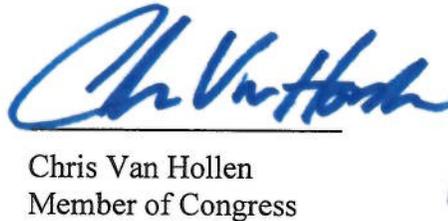
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



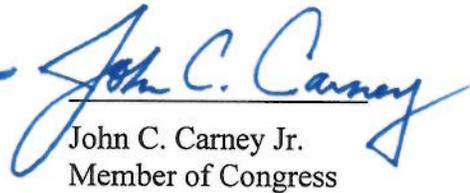
James A. Himes  
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Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



John C. Carney Jr.  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
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Dave Loebsack  
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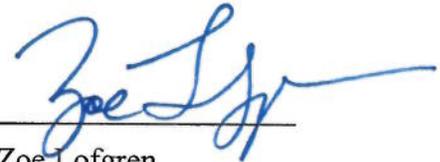
Tim Ryan  
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Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



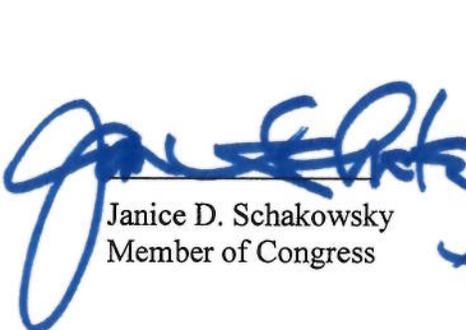
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress



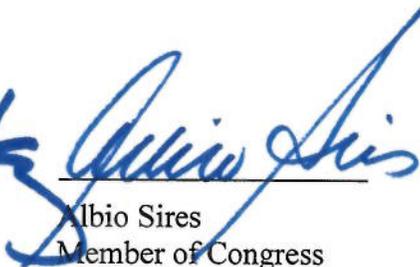
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



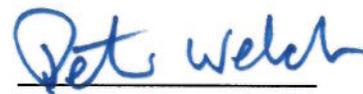
Rick Larsen  
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Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
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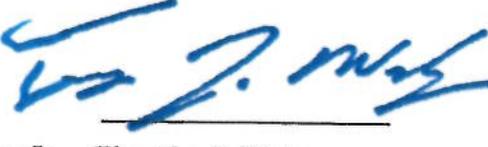
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

  
John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress

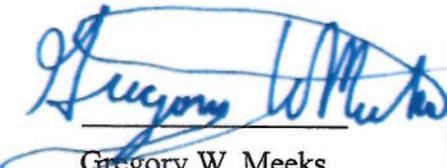
  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

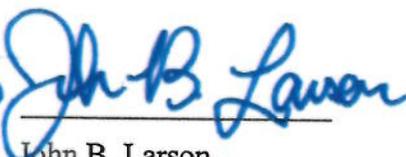
  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

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

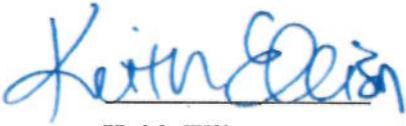
  
Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress

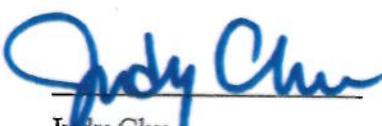
  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

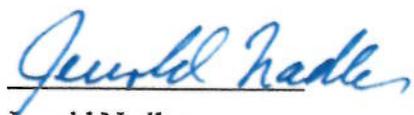
  
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

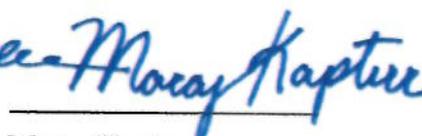
  
Robert C. "Bobby," Scott  
Member of Congress

  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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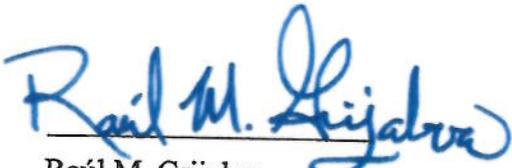
  
Daniel T. Kildee  
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