

2020 World Refugee Day - Amarillo CALL YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

WHY YOU NEED TO CALL:

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the historic Refugee Act of 1980, which created the framework for refugee resettlement in the United States, we are seeing increasing attacks on the refugees that call the United States home. The federal government has been consistently decreasing the number of refugees being resettled in the US, and Governor Greg Abbott has tried to halt resettlement in Texas altogether. **Call and ask your Senator and Representative** to co-sponsor **the bipartisan resolution that commemorates the 40th Anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980** to celebrate the accomplishments of our refugee communities and reaffirm our support for them.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also disproportionately affected the most vulnerable in our communities, including refugees. With previous stimulus packages discriminating aid based on citizenship and immigration status, it is imperative that those resettled here are able to access much-needed relief. **Call upon your Senators and Representative to Provide a supplemental \$642 million for the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in FY2020** so that we can support and stand with refugees in our communities.

Now is the time to take action. Through calling your Senators and Representatives, organizing meetings, spreading the word on social media and throughout your communities, we must make it clear that Americans stand with our refugee neighbors and welcome them.

CALL YOUR SENATORS:

- **Sen. Ted Cruz**
 - DC office: **(202) 224-5922**
 - Houston office: **(713) 718-3057***
 - Twitter: **@SenTedCruz**
- **Sen. John Cornyn**
 - DC office: **(202)-224-2934**
 - Austin Office: **(512) 469-6034***
 - Twitter: **@JohnCornyn**

*Be sure to call legislator's hometown offices during August recess: 08/01/20 - 09/08/20

SAMPLE TALKING POINTS asking **Senators** to co-sponsor the resolution commemorating the Refugee Act of 1980 and support supplemental funding for refugees:

- "Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I am a constituent from [DISTRICT/CITY, STATE]. I'd like to leave a brief message for Senator [MEMBER'S LAST NAME].
- Please tell Senator [MEMBER'S LAST NAME] that I hope he will **co-sponsor the resolution commemorating the Refugee Act of 1980 (Resolution 545)** being led by Senator Coons. We must stand with refugees and restore our resettlement program to its historic norms, and this resolution is an important first step in doing so.
- I also ask that the Senator **support providing a supplemental \$642 million through the Refugee and Entrant Assistance account for the Office of Refugee Resettlement in fiscal year 2020.** This would ensure that vulnerable populations such as refugees can receive the food, housing and care they need, and not fall through the cracks.
- I am deeply concerned about this administration's constant attacks on refugees and asylum seekers and urge you to support them in this difficult time."

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CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:

Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-13)

- District office (Amarillo): (806) 371-8844
- DC office: 202-225-3706
- Twitter: @MacTXPress

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-19)

- District office (Lubbock): 806-763-1611
- DC office: 202-225-4005
- Twitter: @RepArrington

You can find out who your representative is by visiting: <http://bit.ly/findmyUSrep>

SAMPLE TALKING POINTS asking **Representatives** to co-sponsor the resolution commemorating the Refugee Act of 1980 and support supplemental funding for refugees:

- "Hello, my name is [YOUR NAME] and I'm your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and I urge you to stand with refugees in the United States and reaffirm our commitment to their right to live here.
- Please tell Representative [MEMBER'S LAST NAME] that I hope s/he will co-sponsor the resolution commemorating the Refugee Act of 1980 ([Resolution 902](#)) being led by Representative Garcia. We must stand with refugees and restore our resettlement program to its historic norms, and this resolution is an important first step in doing so.
- I also ask that the Representative **support providing a supplemental \$642 million through the Refugee and Entrant Assistance account for the Office of Refugee Resettlement in fiscal year 2020**. This would ensure that vulnerable populations such as refugees can receive the food, housing and care they need, and not fall through the cracks.
- **To demonstrate your commitment to refugees, join the Bipartisan Congressional Refugee Caucus to restore the United State's leadership role in refugee protection and resettlement. You can join the caucus by emailing rachel.calanni@mail.house.gov**. My community welcomes refugees, and I urge you to reflect the best of our nation by supporting refugee resettlement."

Thank you for supporting refugees!