THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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AN OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM THE NATION'S MAYORS

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate:

We write to register the support of the nation's mayors for the U.S. refugee resettlement system and to recognize the importance of continuing to welcome refugees to our country and to our cities. In recent days some have suggested that Congress should halt the entry of refugees, particularly Syrian refugees, to this nation. We urge you to resist this call and take no action that will prevent Syrian refugees from entering the United States after they have completed the screening process.

Last year the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted policy that recognizes this nation's leadership in protecting refugees and celebrates the contributions refugees make to their communities. Through that policy, the Conference supports efforts by the federal government to ensure that the U.S. resettlement program remains responsive to the needs of refugees and of the communities in which they settle.

The policy describes the U.S. refugee resettlement program, administered by the Departments of State and Health and Human Services, as a unique and robust public-private partnership of the federal government, state and local governments, non-profit agencies, and individuals. That resettlement program begins with a rigorous screening system, one that subjects potential refugees to the most rigorous screening and security vetting of any category of traveler to the United States.

Our nation has always been a beacon of hope for those seeking peace and protection from persecution. We urge you to take no action that will jeopardize this rich and proud heritage.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, MD
President

Greg Stanton, Mayor of Phoenix, AZ
Mark Mitchell, Mayor of Tempe, AZ
Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson, AZ
Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA
Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, CA
Edwin Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, CA
Lindsey Horvath, Mayor of West Hollywood, CA
Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, CA
Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of Denver, CO
Pedro Segarra, Mayor of Hartford, CT
Muriel E. Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC

Peter Bober, Mayor of Hollywood, FL
Rick Kriseman, Mayor of St. Petersburg, FL
Michael Ryan, Mayor of Sunrise, FL
Andrew Gillum, Mayor of Tallahassee, FL
Ted Terry, Mayor of Clarkston, GA
David H. Bieter, Mayor of Boise, ID
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago, IL
Elizabeth Tisdahl, Mayor of Evanston, IL
Chris Koos, Mayor of Normal, IL
Laurel Prussing, Mayor of Urbana, IL
Thomas Henry, Mayor of Fort Wayne, IN
Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of Gary, IN
Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, IN
Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, KY
Michael Brennan, Mayor of Portland, ME
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA
James Fiorentini, Mayor of Haverhill, MA
Setti Warren, Mayor of Newton, MA
Joseph Curtatone, Mayor of Somerville, MA
Mike Duggan, Mayor of Detroit, MI
George Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids, MI
Virg Bernero, Mayor of Lansing, MI
Ardell Brede, Mayor of Rochester, MN
Sylvester James, Mayor of Kansas City, MO
Francis Slay, Mayor of St. Louis, MO
Bert Steinmann, Mayor of Ewing, NJ
Byron Brown, Mayor of Buffalo, NY
Wayne J. Hall, Sr., Mayor of Hempstead, NY
Svante Myrick, Mayor of Ithaca, NY
Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York, NY
Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY
Stephanie Miner, Mayor of Syracuse, NY
Mark Kleinschmidt, Mayor of Chapel Hill, NC
Michael Coleman, Mayor of Columbus, OH
John A. McNally, Mayor of Youngstown, OH
Charlie Hales, Mayor of Portland, OR
Ed Pawlowski, Mayor of Allentown, PA
Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA
William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA
Edwin Garcia-Feliciano, Mayor of Camuy, PR
Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of Charleston, SC
Kim McMillan, Mayor of Clarksville, TN
Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin, TX
Michael S. Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas, TX
Jesus Ruiz, Mayor of Socorro, TX
Mark Shepherd, Mayor of Clearfield City, UT
Ralph Becker, Mayor of Salt Lake City, UT
William Euille, Mayor of Alexandria, VA
McKinley Price, Mayor of Newport News, VA
Ed Murray, Mayor of Seattle, WA