

DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3010

WASHINGTON OFFICE
132 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3010
(202) 225-3436

DISTRICT OFFICES
LEROY SMITH PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
60 NELSON PLACE
14TH FLOOR
NEWARK, NJ 07102
(973) 645-3213

253 MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07305
(201) 369-0392

1455 LIBERTY AVENUE
HILLSIDE, NJ 07205
(862) 229-2994

July 26, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson
Secretary of State
US Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

We are respectfully writing to oppose the proposed elimination of the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). As our global community experiences the highest levels of displacement on record, with more than 65,000,000 people around the world forced from their homes, the assistance and services provided by the PRM is needed now more than ever to address the global crisis at hand. Eliminating the PRM bureau and cutting vital funding to refugee assistance programs, will send a deeply troubling message to refugees and international partners around the world of the U.S. commitment to humanitarian assistance.

The PRM's mission to provide protection, ease the suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and vulnerable people worldwide on behalf of the American people promotes effective and humane migration policies and advances our foreign policy and national security interests. Any actions that are contrary to the mission of the PRM such as its elimination will hinder the U.S. efforts to shape international migration policy and other issues of key concern to the United States. Furthermore, such actions will undermine U.S. global leadership, our commitments to the 1951 refugee convention, and our standing as a nation of immigrants.

The U.S. has always been a world leader in the resettlement and protection of refugees and we must continue on this path at this very crucial time. Funding provided by the PRM gives the world's most vulnerable refugees a safe new beginning, far from violence and persecution. Our funding supports education programs to ensure that displaced and refugee children are able to learn, provides shelter for those who have fled their homes, and provides life-saving food and clean water to millions of refugees and displaced people worldwide. We must continue the work to protect vulnerable populations and lead global efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to this population.

Additionally, the U.S. continues to benefit greatly from the immeasurable contributions of migrants since our nation's founding. Presently, there are approximately 40 million foreign-born persons living in the country, representing nearly 13 percent of the entire U.S. population. As a result, we must continue to affirm our commitment to protecting the rights of migrants and refugees at home and worldwide. As the single largest donor to the UNHCR, UNRWA, IOM, and ICR, eradicating the contribution provided by the PRM to support humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement efforts globally will not only impact

our humanitarian goals, but will also negatively affect our partners and their ability to address the present global refugee crisis. It is imperative that we deliver on our promises and work diligently with these international organizations, as well as with non-governmental organizations to develop sustainable solutions to the largest refugee crisis facing our global community since World War II.

Maintaining the PRM is a valuable investment in the shared security and prosperity for our global community and contributes to fostering stability and progress for the benefit of the American people and people everywhere.

Again, we implore you to keep the PRM and reaffirm our commitment to providing humanitarian assistance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



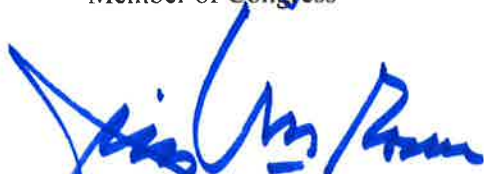
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress




Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



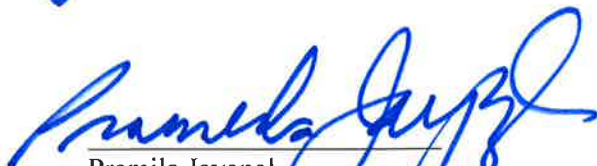
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Adriano Espaillat

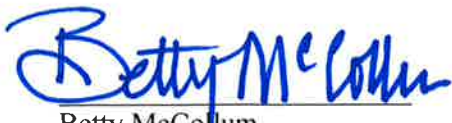
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Peter Welch

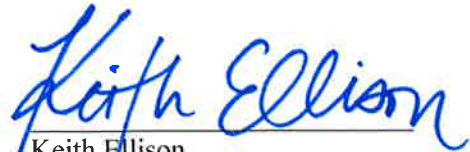
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress




Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



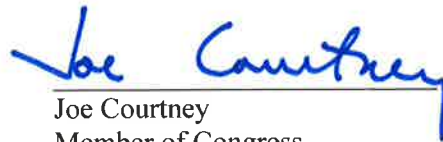
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