



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3/26/18**

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**COLORADO LAWMAKERS SHOULD PREVENT DISMANTLEMENT OF THE U.S. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM**

**Denver, CO**—Nearly six months into the 2018 fiscal year, refugee arrivals to the United States are far below the already low threshold set by the Trump Administration. Last fall, the Trump Administration set the ceiling for refugee admissions just 45,000 (compared to 110,000 set in the final year of the Obama administration) and actual resettlement numbers indicate that the U.S. is significantly behind meeting even that low ceiling number.

Members of the Board of Directors of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning today sent letters to all of Colorado’s Members of Congress urging them to use their voices as legislators to prevent the further dismantlement of the U.S. refugee resettlement program under the Trump Administration.

“The devastating cuts to the resettlement of refugees in the United States at a time of unprecedented refugee populations worldwide denies tens of thousands of the world’s most vulnerable individuals the opportunity to regain their lives and their dignity,” the letter stated. “It is also causing tremendous damage to the ability of the United States to take a leadership role among our allies and enemies alike.”

Colorado had received only 285 refugees as of February 2018, a mere 21% of its projected arrivals for the year.

(Full text of letter below.)

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March 26, 2018

Senator Michael Bennet  
Senator Cory Gardner  
Representative Diana DeGette  
Representative Jared Polis  
Representative Scott Tipton  
Representative Ken Buck  
Representative Doug Lamborn  
Representative Mike Coffman  
Representative Ed Perlmutter

Dear Senator/Representative:

As Members of the Board of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, we write today to express our strong concern regarding the devastating cuts to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program under the current Presidential Administration.

Not only has the Trump Administration cut the President Determination, or cap, for U.S. Refugee Admissions in the current fiscal year to only 45,000—a level which is roughly half of levels set under nearly all previous administrations going back to the passage of the U.S. Refugee Act in 1980—actual arrival numbers are falling well below even that extremely low target.

According to Refugee Council USA, arrivals as of February 2018 totaled just 8,365 nationwide. This is just 46% of where the U.S. should be to meet even the low cap of 45,000 Set by the Administration. In Colorado, we have received only 285 refugees as of February 2018, a mere 21% of our projected arrivals for the year.

The devastating cuts to the resettlement of refugees in the United States at a time of unprecedented refugee populations worldwide denies tens of thousands of the world's most vulnerable individuals the opportunity to regain their lives and their dignity. It is also causing tremendous damage to the ability of the United States to take a leadership role among our allies and enemies alike. These cuts serve to further destabilize important regions of the world as the countries to which refugees have fled cannot continue to shoulder the burden of hosting such sizeable populations.

Finally, the very infrastructure through which the United States has led the world in successfully resettling and integrating refugees is under threat, as resettlement agencies and organizations like Spring Institute cut staff and programs that help refugees become contributing members of our communities and contribute to our economic vibrancy.

We urge you to use your voice in the United States Congress to prevent the further dismantlement of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Programs and restore the program to levels that are consistent with our values and our national interest.

Sincerely,



D. Robert Rutledge  
Board Co-Chair



Cary Baird  
Board Co-Chair



Kenneth So  
Board Treasurer



Margaret Kirkpatrick  
Board Secretary



Rose Muniz  
Board Member



Paula Schriefer  
President and CEO