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## **REFUGEE ACTION COALITION OF COLORADO CONDEMNS LOWERING OF CAP ON REFUGEE ADMISSION**

**Denver, CO**—Members of the Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado strongly condemn the lowering of the Presidential Determination—or cap—set for refugee admissions to the United States by the Trump Administration. The new cap, set at just 30,000, reflects the Administration’s intention to lower yet again the number of refugee admissions to the United States in 2019 despite record numbers of refugees worldwide.

The United States settled nearly 85,000 refugees in 2016, the final year of the Obama Administration, and the cap for refugees in 2017 was set at 110,000 by the outgoing Administration. However, only 53,000 refugees were resettled in 2017, as a result of the Executive Orders on immigration and a slowing down of vetting under the Trump White House. The cap was set at a record low of 45,000 in 2018, although only roughly 20,000 refugees have been resettled with just two months left in the fiscal year.

“This Administration is perpetrating a shameful and unprecedented assault on the refugee resettlement program,” said Paula Schriefer, President of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning. “The gutting of the U.S. resettlement program not only means that tens of thousands of the world’s most desperate individuals will never have a chance at starting a new life, it also means that individuals already resettled here may never reunite with their children, parents or siblings.”

While the Trump Administration has cited security and economic concerns to justify cuts to the refugee resettlement program, there is no evidence to back up these claims. A May 2018 report, *The Economic and Fiscal Impact of [Refugees in Colorado](#)*, found that refugees generate \$1.68 in economic activity for every \$1 provided to refugees in assistance.

“The reduction in the number of refugees amounts to empty seats in the lifeboat we call the Resettlement Program,” said Jennifer Gueddiche, Executive Director of the African Community Center. “This action by the Administration will result in unnecessary deaths, increased trauma, and the destruction of dreams for the over 30,000 individuals whose American dreams have now turned to dust.”

Prior to the Trump Administration, refugees admitted to the U.S. were already the most heavily vetted individuals to arrive on U.S. soil. The vetting process took on average well over a year and included in-person interviews, biometric screening, and background checks by multiple agencies.

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The **Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado** is a coalition of organizations dedicated to defending the rights and interests of refugees at the local and national level and to providing a platform for refugees to share their contributions and concerns.

**Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning** is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people and organizations to succeed across languages and cultures. To find out more, visit our website at <http://www.springinstitute.org/> and follow us on [Facebook](#).

**The African Community Center** is a branch office of the Ethiopian Community Development Council. ECDC ACC is authorized by the Department of State to resettle refugees in the U.S. and has been welcoming refugees into the Denver metro area for 15 years. ECDC ACC helps refugees build safe, sustainable lives. ECDC ACC is a 501(c)(3) entity. For more information about ECDC ACC, visit <http://www.acc-den.org> and follow on [Facebook](#).