



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7/2/25

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REFUGEE ACTION COALITION OF COLORADO OPPOSES FEDERAL BUDGET PACKAGE THAT WOULD HARM REFUGEES AND HUMANITARIAN ENTRANTS

ADVOCATES URGE REPRESENTATIVES TO REJECT CRUEL AND UN-AMERICAN PROVISIONS DETRIMENTAL TO COLORADO'S SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

Denver, CO—Members of the Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado (RACC), in alignment with [over 100 allied organizations across the country](#) and in solidarity with [Refugee Council USA](#), strongly oppose and condemn xenophobic provisions of [H.R. 1, the “One Big Beautiful Bill” Act](#). This federal budget package is currently under consideration in the U.S. House of Representatives following its approval in the U.S. Senate by a hairline vote of 51-50 in the wee hours of July 1st. Advocates are appalled that by supporting the current version of H.R.1, Colorado's U.S. Representatives Boebert, Crank, Evans, and Hurd are shirking our state's welcoming values, ignoring humanitarian principles, and undermining the economic wellbeing of Coloradans by targeting refugees and humanitarian entrants whose contributions are vital in our state.

The reconciliation bill includes egregiously damaging provisions that would strip health coverage from refugees and humanitarian entrants and deny refugees and humanitarian populations access to food while also supercharging immigration enforcement and family detention and imposing punitive and unaffordable fees for asylum, parole, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and work permits. These provisions would compound harms already wrought by the Trump administration's dismantling of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), other anti-immigrant executive actions and draconian restrictions on immigration, and the harshly inhumane domestic immigration enforcement measures being carried out across the country to demonize and terrorize immigrants and refugees of all backgrounds and statuses.

The Trump administration has disingenuously characterized such measures as promoting public safety and fiscal austerity, yet extensive research shows that immigrants, regardless of documentation status, are less likely than U.S.-born individuals to commit crimes and immigration is associated with increased public safety. Furthermore, immigrants are a vital part of Colorado's economy, contributing billions in state and local taxes, generating economic growth, and strengthening public services. Refugees play an especially crucial role in our shared prosperity by generating \$1.68 in economic activity for every \$1

provided to them in assistance, according to a report by the Colorado Department of Human Services. In 2023 alone, [refugee Coloradans](#) contributed \$127.1M in state and local taxes and \$233.3M in federal taxes.

"On behalf of the vulnerable community members we serve, ACC lifts its voice in opposition to the harm that will be done to so many low-income and middle-income families by this budget bill," says Ron Buzard, Managing Director of the [African Community Center of Denver](#) (ACC). "ACC urges Congress to take thoughtful and courageous action that removes and amends the harmful elements of the bill before passing it. It is unconscionable to consider reducing our society's safety nets for the benefit of a few. We the people are better than that."

"No country has more successfully integrated diverse refugee populations than the United States. For 80 years, an initial investment in the health and care of refugees has allowed them to achieve tremendous economic prosperity for themselves, their children, and our communities," says Paula Schriefer, President and CEO of [Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning](#). "Those Americans who arrived on our shores as refugees represent the best of us. Denying refugees access to healthcare after the physical and emotional trauma they have already endured for no other reason than to further enrich those who need it the least is a shocking betrayal and utterly unnecessary. Congress must heed the overwhelming will of the American people and restore adequate funding for Medicaid upon which refugees and so many other Americans rely."

RACC calls on Colorado's Congressional leaders to reject any legislation that punishes or cruelly eliminates vital support for refugees and other humanitarian entrants. We particularly urge Colorado Representatives Boebert, Crank, Evans, and Hurd to withdraw their support for H.R. 1 unless and until these provisions are removed.

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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. [Apply for membership](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).