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## REFUGEE ACTION COALITION OF COLORADO URGES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS CAP OF 125,000 TO MEET URGENT NEEDS

### ADVOCATES URGE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ASSERT THEIR OVERSIGHT POWER

**Denver, CO**—Members of the Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado strongly urge President Trump to establish a [Presidential Determination](#)—or cap—of [at least 125,000](#) for the number of [refugee admissions](#) to the United States in order to meet the growing needs of refugees and displaced persons. We further urge the administration to prioritize individual country targets based on humanitarian need.

The United States proudly resettled an average of 75,000 refugees per year over the two and a half decades preceding Trump’s first presidency, with much higher numbers during periods of significant humanitarian need. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) has proven to be one of the most effective and safest means of immigration, with over three million refugees resettled since 1980, allowing them to rebuild their lives as dedicated and hard working Americans. It also provides a critical safety valve for relieving human suffering and decreasing conflict.

Since 1980, 80,000 refugees have resettled in Colorado. They have played 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](#) paid \$127.1 million in state and local taxes and had a combined household income of \$1.4 billion. Security screening for refugees is the most robust applied to any immigrants traveling to the United States and the program has an excellent track record for ensuring those selected are committed to peacefully restarting their lives as Americans.

The [Refugee Act of 1980](#), signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, established the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and the asylum system. Subsequent decades of both Republican and Democratic leadership championed the welcoming of refugees. During his first term, President Trump broke from longstanding U.S. policy, pausing the program and repeatedly lowering the annual Presidential Determination. Upon his second inauguration, he [suspended USRAP indefinitely](#), stranding over 100,000 refugees who had already been approved for resettlement and triggering massive layoffs and service disruptions throughout the resettlement network that is responsible for supporting successful integration of already-arrived refugees.

“For decades, Coloradans and other Americans across the political spectrum have welcomed [refugees](#), embraced their extensive socioeconomic and cultural contributions, and benefited from the positive economic, humanitarian, and security impacts of resettlement,” says Paula Schriefer, President & CEO of Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, a Denver-based nonprofit and co-founder of RACC. “We urge President Trump and Members of Congress, with whom he is required by law to consult in setting the Presidential Determination, to restore USRAP and America’s reputation as a country of values and opportunity.”

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The **Refugee Action Coalition of Colorado (RACC)** advocates for and with refugees to promote a welcoming community and to advance opportunities where refugees thrive. RACC’s projects have included responding to past Presidential Determination announcements and other emerging issues related to USRAP, supporting Colorado Refugee Advocacy Days and National Refugee Advocacy Days, and serving as stewards of the Ma Kaing Scholarship Fund promoting higher education for immigrant and refugee Coloradans. Find RACC on [Facebook](#).