



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

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CEO and Executive Director
TOM COCHRAN

August 6, 2018

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge that you increase, not decrease, refugee admission levels in 2019. The most recent policy adopted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors on this issue calls for admitting at least 100,000 refugees per year.

The United States has a strong tradition of providing safe haven, freedom, and opportunity to refugees fleeing the world's most dangerous and desperate situations. It is a tradition that has helped to define us as a nation and make us great, and it has contributed to our high standing in the world.

At the same time cities across the country have benefited greatly from the economic and social contributions and the cultural and religious diversity of refugee communities. They come to the United States with a vision, passion, dedication to hard work, and unique perspectives – all of which fuel the cultural and economic prosperity of our cities. Like other immigrants, refugees are taxpayers, job creators, innovators, entrepreneurs, and they are consumers.

Reducing the number of refugees who come to our nation each year diminishes us as a country and negatively affects our communities. It means that we are not providing access to the American dream to well-vetted and deserving people from throughout the world. It means that employers may not be able to hire the refugee workers they have counted on in the past. It means that our cities may not be newly invigorated by the economic and cultural contributions that refugees make to them.

As you determine the refugee admission levels for 2019, we urge you to keep in mind the views of America's mayors and work with us to strengthen our cities and our nation.

Sincerely,

Stephen K. Benjamin
Mayor of Columbia
President

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director