

This document contains resources for advocates who want to advocate for refugees and immigrants in general and not related to a specific executive order or piece of legislation.

Call your Congressperson Script

Subject: general script to call your Representative/Senator about issues relating to refugees and immigrants

Hello. My name is _____ and I am a resident of your [District or State—include your zip code!]. I am calling today because I care deeply about refugees and immigrants.

[**Personal connection:** I am a person of faith who believes welcoming the stranger is my faith in action // I am a religious leader who is concerned about the rescission of the protected areas guidance and the potential for immigration enforcement actions to occur at my place of worship // I am a concerned citizen who is upset about recent policy changes and executive orders // I am an immigrant or refugee myself // I work at a nonprofit organization that helps refugees and immigrants and I am concerned about my ability to do my job given recent stop work orders and funding freezes]

I am incredibly concerned about the rights of refugees and immigrants in light of recent policy changes at the federal level. As your constituent, I urge you to please engage with the Administration on behalf local organizations who work supporting immigrants and refugees and refugees and immigrants who are legally here in the United States. I also urge you to support immigrants and refugees publicly and push back on dehumanizing and inaccurate misinformation. Thank you very much.

Meeting request email template

Subject line: Meeting Request to Discuss Issues Related to Refugees and Immigrants

Hello,

I'd like to request a meeting with a staff member from the office of Representative/Senator _____.

[**Personal connection:** I am a person of faith who believes welcoming the stranger is my faith in action // I am a religious leader who is concerned about the rescission of the protected areas guidance and the potential for immigration enforcement actions to occur at my place of worship // I am a concerned citizen who is upset about recent policy changes and executive orders // I am an immigrant or refugee myself // I work at a nonprofit organization that helps refugees and immigrants and I am concerned about my ability to do my job given recent stop work orders and funding freezes]

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Let me know what times and dates would work for a virtual or in-person meeting.

I look forward to hearing back from you and I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter.

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

NAME

ZIP CODE

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

Talking Points for a meeting

1. The United States Refugee Admissions Program is decades old and has benefitted from bipartisan support.

- Since the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980, all persons fleeing persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group were processed and admitted to the United States under the United States Refugee Admissions Program. This program has not changed since 1980, and since its inception, the program has facilitated the lawful resettlement of [more than 3 million refugees](#).
- Before this, refugees were admitted through [many other provisions](#), like the Indochinese Immigration and Refugee Act of 1975 which paroled 130,000 Southeast Asian refugees into the United States, the Cuban Airlift and the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 through which 350,000 displaced persons were admitted to the United States, and other similar programs.
- The act of welcoming those fleeing persecution and violence is woven into the fabric of America's history and identity. Continuing the USRAP demonstrates America's commitment and leadership on human rights.

2. Refugees and immigrants revitalize communities across the country.

- According to a 2023 study conducted by the [American Immigration Council](#), 13 percent of refugees are entrepreneurs, generating an estimated \$5.1 billion in business income in 2019. On the other hand, 9 percent of the U.S. born population represents entrepreneurs, and 11.7 percent of non-refugee immigrants are entrepreneurs.
- In 2019 alone, the 2.4 million refugees included in an American Immigration Council study generated an estimated \$93.6 billion in household income, contributed \$25 billion in taxes, and took home \$68.6 billion in disposable income used to stimulate the United States economy.
- Refugees are committed to adopting the United States as their homeland and [refugees and asylees represent 9.4% of the 818,500 citizens](#) naturalized in fiscal year 2024.
- In Great Lakes States, immigration has been [key to economic success and population growth](#). For example, only 61.7 percent of the U.S.-born residents in the Great Lakes region were of working age in 2022, while 78.2 percent of the region's foreign-born residents were of working age. In rural counties, each foreign-born resident creates 1.2 additional jobs.

- If we support legal pathways for migration, including the United States Refugee Admissions Program, immigrants and refugees can be America's superpower in combatting [declining fertility rates, an ageing American populace, and a slowly shrinking working age population](#).