



## Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

### LIRS SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL TO YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: APRIL 2-6, 2018, WEEK OF ACTION

[Date]

The Honorable [*Senator/Representative*] (find this information at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov))  
[*room number*] [*name of congressional office building*]  
Washington, DC [20510/20515]

Dear [*Senator/Representative*] [*last name*]:

As your constituent, I urge you to hold the Administration accountable to resettling at least 45,000 refugees in FY18 and commit to resettling at least 75,000 refugees in FY 2019. We are facing the worst refugee crisis in recorded history. There are over 65 million forcibly displaced people in the world, including over 22 million refugees, over half of whom are children. Refugees are of special humanitarian concern to the United States and are a testament to our nation's long, proud history as a beacon of hope.

In September 2017, the Administration announced the U.S. would reduce refugee arrivals to 45,000 individuals for the 2018 fiscal year, the lowest allocation in the history of our nation's resettlement program. We are at the mid-year mark of FY18 and the U.S. has welcomed fewer than 10,000 refugees. I am deeply concerned that, as a country, we are not on track to meet this number and as of March 19, 2018 have only admitted 9,675 refugees.

**[Share a personal story about why helping and welcoming refugees is important to you (your faith, your community, your business, your family or background, etc.). Let them know the specific ways that refugees are welcomed into your community, congregations, and why refugee protection is so important to you. Describe positive impacts refugees have on your community—can include examples of refugees creating jobs, starting businesses, opening restaurants, bringing cultural diversity, buying homes, paying taxes, etc.]**

Since World War II, the U.S. has been the global leader in offering refuge to people escaping persecution, war or violence in their home country. We know the U.S. is capable of doing more and call on you to hold the Administration accountable to resettling at least 45,000 refugees in FY18 and commit to resettling at least 75,000 refugees in FY 2019. Thank you for your public service, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
[Your signature]  
[Your Name]  
[Your Title]  
[Your Address]  
[Your City, State, Zip Code]  
[Your Phone Number]