

Date: _____

Dear Senator Portman/Brown and Representative XXX:

The United States of America has been blessed in so many ways for so many years, and many of those blessings have come due to the arrival of millions of people from around the world. Sadly, the immigration system that welcomed so many people has become broken. We therefore beg you, our elected officials, to propose, debate, and pass legislation that will restore our broken immigration system. We seek a system that both protects the sovereignty of our country and stands for the ideas of perseverance, welcome, and freedom upon which our country was built. We stand in firm opposition to any policies or practices that limit the ability of those seeking refuge and asylum to have their human liberties honored. As members of the Catholic Church, we stand in solidarity with refugees at every stage of their journey to safety and freedom and celebrate the special courage and resilience of refugees and refugee families.

Acting as members of a universal church, we urge Congress to urge the Administration to protect and support refugees through their journeys across the globe, as they are displaced in their home countries, seek refuge in neighboring countries, and seek refuge in the United States.

Between FY 2016 and FY 2019, the Administration reduced the annual goal for refugee admissions to the U.S. from 85,000 to 45,000 to 30,000. As Catholics, welcoming refugees is part of our life of faith. Jesus calls us to welcome newcomers as they flee from persecution and seek to build new lives in our country. As the Administration consults with Congress on refugee admissions, we are concerned that the Administration will once again substantially cut the annual goal. We therefore implore you to support an admission level of 95,000, a level consistent with historical norms of the nearly 40-year-old program.

We ultimately urge Congress to commit to comprehensive immigration reform that restores order to our immigration system and better respects human dignity.

Pope Francis calls us to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate all those living in the existential peripheries of society, whether migrants or otherwise. He reminds us that “when we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays.” (*2019 Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees*)

We thank you for your service to our country, and we pray that your work in Congress will bear fruits that will restore our country to its historical place as a land of opportunity and prosperity.

God bless,

Name: _____

Address: _____
