



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

July 24, 2019

United States House  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I am writing to express our support for the following legislation to help protect and support refugees as they are displaced from their home countries and seek refuge:

- The GRACE Act (H.R. 2146), which would set a minimum refugee admissions goal of 95,000 each year and increase accountability by mandating quarterly reports on refugee admissions; and
- The NO BAN Act (H.R. 2214), which would repeal the Muslim bans, refugee bans, and asylum ban, and prevent the administration from setting such bans in the future.

Between FY 2016 and FY 2019, the Administration reduced the annual goal for refugee admissions to the U.S. from 85,000 to 30,000. As Catholics, welcoming refugees is part of our life of faith and we believe that the U.S. should resettle at least 95,000 refugees in FY2020. Just last month in his message for the 2019 World Day of Migrants, Pope Francis spoke of the Church's mission to welcome, protect, promote and integrate immigrants. "It is not just about migrants", he said, but about who we are as a society, how we help the most vulnerable, and how we value human life. "We see this today in particular, faced with the arrival of migrants and refugees knocking on our door in search of protection, security and a better future."

Harsh immigration policies, and limits on the number of refugees as well as restrictions on countries of origin, are also fueling the growing problem of human trafficking here and elsewhere. This is a problem many Catholic health care organizations see and are addressing as we screen and treat an increasing number of victims of human trafficking. The United States Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking has said the administration's decision to "drastically decrease refugee admissions places these children, women, and men, already among the most vulnerable and desperate people on earth, at even greater risk of forced labor and human trafficking."

We invite you to join with us in helping to protect migrant children and families and to combat the scourge of human trafficking by co-sponsoring H.R. 2146 and H.R. 2214. If you have any questions about this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of CHA's advocacy staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Mary Haddad".

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO