



Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

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Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983

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ECDC Responds to Reduction in Resettlement Admissions

Arlington, VA - The United States has always been a leader in refugee resettlement. Since the Immigration Act of 1980, the United States Refugee Admissions Program has provided a home to more than three million people. This leadership resulted in other countries taking responsibility for providing refugee protection around the world. At a time, according to UNHCR, with 68.5 million people forcefully displaced worldwide and for those who value America's immigrant heritage, today ended on a sad note, as the Presidential Determination set the lowest resettlement ceiling in history.

The decision made by the administration to resettle only 30,000 refugees during FY 2019 goes against what the American public is able and willing to do. Over the past four decades, our country has set the tone for how the world responds to refugee crises. The implications of this decision will have drastic ramifications around the world if other countries decide to scale back their own refugee resettlement programs. Families that have long waited to be reunited will continue to be separated.

ECDC wants to assure its partners that it will continue to advocate for refugees and serve those who have already begun to establish their lives anew here in the United States. Through its various programs, ECDC also will continue to help immigrant and refugee members of the community succeed and achieve self-sufficiency.

We call on members of Congress to challenge the reduction in the resettlement ceiling decision and to safeguard America's legacy of resettling the most vulnerable refugees.

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ECDC is one of nine national resettlement agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. ECDC promotes cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.